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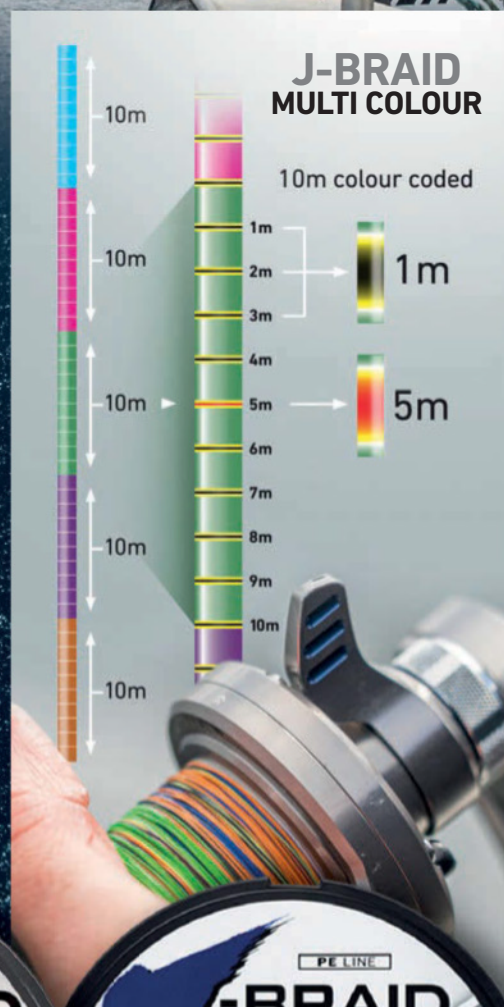
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WELCOME

ISSUE 620

SPRING 2023

It's been over 20 years since I was last there but this month I'm lucky enough to be travelling to Australia for the World Recreational Fishing Conference from February 20th-22nd. The conference, held every two years, brings together anglers, scientists, researchers, fishery managers and other interested parties to present and discuss the latest research, findings and policy on recreational fishing from right across the world. This year representatives from 20 different countries will be converging in Melbourne. I am officially there representing the European Anglers Alliance – a lobbying organisation that represents anglers across Europe and whom I've been involved with for 13 years now. It's the European Anglers Alliance you've got to thank for the 2024 bass bag limit being extended from nine months to 10.

With any luck I'll be returning from Melbourne with news on exciting new developments in different parts of the world which will interest, excite and entertain you. I hope it will also give me the opportunity to consider new ideas for features and consider new topics that, thus far, we haven't covered in the pages of Sea Angler. There is a lot of work being done across the world on a huge range of topics: from the effectiveness of artificial reefs to the use of apps to map offshore fishing locations. New ideas, cutting edge knowledge and ways to inspire you to get out fishing are what I'm always looking for. I'm confident this month's World Recreational Fishing Conference will be the place to find it!

Travelling so far I am duty-bound to wet a line while I am there (it would be a crime against fishing not to) and will be doing my best to get amongst the bluefin tuna and kingfish that start to appear off the coast of western Victoria at this time of year before I return home. The blue waters of New South Wales and Queensland often get more attention so I will be hoping to show you what the state of Victoria has to offer the travelling angler with a few days to spare.

OLD & NEW

Back at home here in the UK spring is almost upon us and many of you will be enjoying targeting hungry plaice as they return inshore after spawning. This month we are focusing on flaties and on both the old and the new. Mike Thrussell revives the trusty old (but out of fashion) boom rig and Dave Lewis goes retro with his ABU Rauto spoon. Meanwhile, Ben Bassett and Markus Lundgren focus on the new and on-trend with features on LRF fishing for flounder and sight fishing for turbot in the inshore waters of Sweden – with some spectacular results. Sight fishing, or 'window' fishing as it's called when done from the shore in Norway, is an example of a new technique in sea angling from overseas which I hope will inspire you as much as it did me when you read it.

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

Tim Macpherson reports (page 88) on steps towards designating another series of Marine Conservation Zones around the coast and what the impact of these might mean for your fishing. Three zones in Dorset have been designated to protect the nesting and spawning sites for black bream. With mounting evidence over the impact of angling on nesting bream during the spawning season (do they return to guard their nests once they've been released?) and the objective to 'recover' the status of some of these nesting sites, fishing for black bream in these MCZs could be restricted as part of the management measures. No doubt this will cause a great deal of controversy – not least amongst the charter fleet in the area which relies heavily on bream fishing in the spring and summer.

Finally, don't miss the chance to win one of three fantastic AVX 10000 surf reels from Sonik worth £149.99 in our competition on page 92.

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BOOM TIME

Targeting spring flatties this month? Try a boom rig. Mike Thrussell explains how, when and where to use this classic rig and why it's time to bring it back into favour once more



The shore rig revolution during the late 1960s and early 1970s changed sea angling forever. Rig components and design took a quantum leap forward with bait clips, pulley rigs, clipped up and down rigs, rig crimps and bait stops being just some of the current crop we use that have their origins around this era.

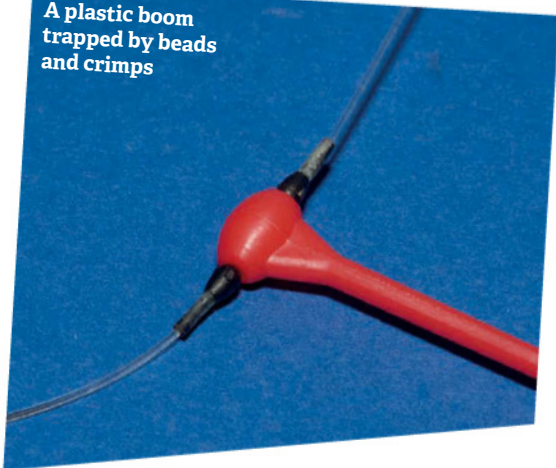
One rig, though, has changed little over the years bar an update in components, and remains loyal to its original design that dates to before the Second World War. The boom rig, incorporating either two or three stand-off booms, tends to be forgotten nowadays, yet it still proves to be one of the most effective rigs for flounder, dabs, sole, plaice and whiting, as well as general species fishing. It's also a classic scratching rig for smaller fish from late January through to late April, though it's very effective throughout the full year.



The photos illustrating this feature were taken on a shallow surf beach on a bright, very cold, sunny winter's day in flat sea conditions with a strong easterly offshore wind; hardly ideal! Bites were very hard to come by, but the three-boom rig consistently caught fish when other rigs struggled to pick up any bites at varied casting distances. It's an adaptable rig, but there are numerous changes you can make to it to maximise catches and to suit varied conditions and situations.

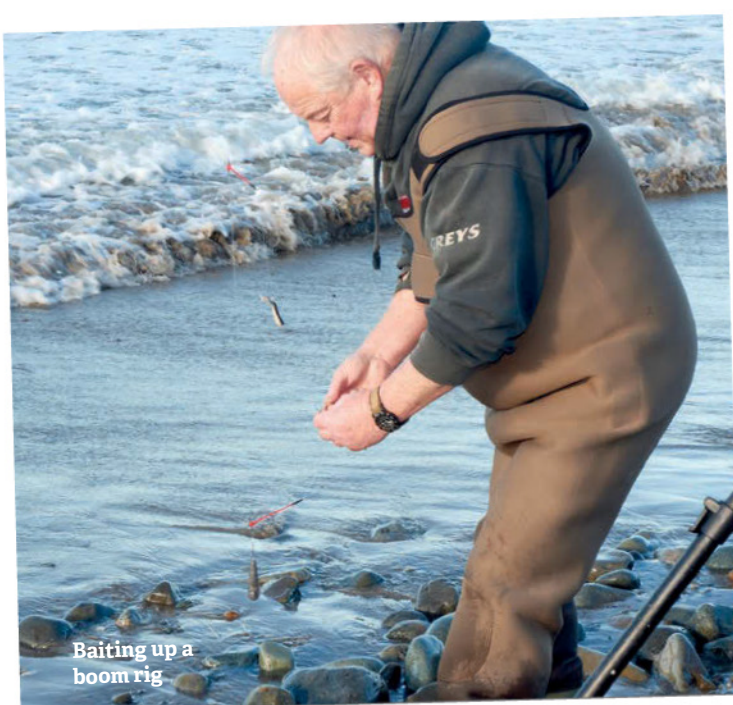


A plastic boom
trapped by beads
and crimps



Mike with a
boom-caught
flounder





Baiting up a boom rig

ADVANTAGES OF BOOMS

Booms are made from either stiff plastic or wire and can be 3-9in long. The shorter 3-5in booms are perfect for general shore fishing, but the longer booms come into their own when you're fishing shallow, clear water during prolonged fine weather spells.

Being stiff they present a bait well away from the rig body line and minimise the risk of tangles in surf or flowing tide conditions. The booms slide on to the rig body and are trapped between small beads with either crimps or sliding stop knots each side to secure in place. Leave just enough room for the boom to freely rotate on the rig body line. This freedom allows the boom to lift and drop as surf tables and swells pass over the rig and virtually eliminates the chance of hook snoods tangling with the rig body line.

Due to the length of the boom, hook lengths can also be fished much shorter. In rougher seas or heavier swells, try 6-8in hook lengths as this helps pin the baits tight to the seabed where the bulk of the fish are feeding. In calmer seas, a longer 10-12in hook length off a longer boom can be used. This can be very effective for plaice in estuary and beach situations.

Modern plastic booms come in a variety of colours. It might not make all that much difference, but you can usually find booms that will roughly match the seabed type you're fishing on. Naturally use either yellow or clear booms over sand, and black and red over shingle, low lying weed and mixed stone and sand. It reduces the visibility of the rig when you're fishing clear shallow water in daylight if the fish are spooky or shy.

PLASTIC OR WIRE BOOMS?

The lighter plastic booms work well in more gentle seas. Choose these when you want the bait to move around a little due to tide or wave movement to give a more natural appearance. The movement of the bait can induce otherwise disinterested fish into taking the bait.

In very settled seas and very clear water, you can use the clear two-way clear rig beads trapped by either crimps or stop knots, with the rig body line passing down through the vertical hole. The

horizontal hole takes a length of 40lb to 60lb fluorocarbon line no more than 8in in length.

Blob one end of the fluorocarbon with a lighter to form a bulb shape and let it cool. This will be big enough to jam in the hole in the 2-way bead and stop the fluorocarbon pulling through. Blob the other end the same way. If you check the bulb, it will be rock hard. Use a five or six turn Grinner knot to tie the hook length to the fluorocarbon boom, then slide and tighten this down until it butts fully up to the bulb. This is ultra-strong and, if done properly, lands fish much heavier than you'd think with no issues. To remove any natural bend in the fluorocarbon, run the fluorocarbon boom through the steam of a boiling kettle a couple of times, remove from the steam, hold it under tension for a few seconds, and you'll see the boom is straight. This does not weaken the line to any appreciable degree. The fluorocarbon booms are unbeatable in settled, gin clear seas and will catch fish when nothing else will.

Lighter wire booms have their place in more lively seas as the weight of the booms will keep the baits closer to the seabed where the bulk of the fish will be feeding. There are heavier booms around, some made from brass or stainless-steel wire, and these are the ones to choose when there is some wave action as again the heavier booms keep the baits more static, and in the fish feeding zone.

You can easily make simple booms from welding TIG wire by simply using long-nosed pliers to bend a small circle in the wire at the end, but make sure that the circle fully closes to avoid the rig body line slipping through between the cut end and boom body. Switching to a heavier boom can be a real game changer, but how many anglers do you see fishing wire booms these days?

If you want small, short booms that act simply as a basic stand-off to limit tangles, a quick, effective way is to utilise carp anglers' rubber anti-tangle sleeves. The longer thinner types, such as the RidgeMonkey anti-tangle sleeves, are small enough to slip over smaller size 8 swivels then grip. You just slide the anti-tangle sleeve over the hook length via the thin end first, tie the hook length to the swivel, then slide the sleeve up and over the swivel to form a semi-stiff boom that fishes consistently well at both short and longer range. Because the rubber anti-tangle sleeves are semi supple, for longer range fishing, you can clip the hook into a bait clip, but as the rig slackens when the lead hits the sea, the hook will still release leaving you with a neat little boom that presents smaller baits perfectly.

Also worth noting is that the carp companies produce tungsten anti-tangle sleeves. These are noticeably heavier than normal rubber sleeves and using two or three of these on a rig can add that little bit more weight to help maintain the bait close to the seabed. This works best when you're using very short hook lengths no more than 8in in length in more lively seas.

Even when securing a hook length to a plastic or wire boom round connection eye, the weight of a bait can see the hook length knot twist in the boom eye and the hook length hangs down at a 90-degree angle to the boom increasing the

chances of tangles and affecting presentation. You can eliminate this by sliding a short 1-1.5in section of neoprene or silicone tubing onto the hook length, and after the knot is tied, slide the tubing over the knot and onto and over the boom eye. This extends the boom length slightly but stops the knot sliding round on the boom eye and helps keep the hook length at an outward stand-off angle off the end of the boom.

BITE INDICATION AND ROD SET UP

When close range fishing off beaches, or when fishing from man-made structure, having your rod fishing at a 50-degree angle and with a tight line sees the top two booms up off the seabed and less effective. Boom rigs fish best when all the booms are hard on the seabed.

To achieve this, in shallower water, turn the rod rest parallel with the sea, not facing it, and position the rod, or rods, with the tips set low and again parallel to the water. This shallows the angle of the line as it enters and travels through the water bringing the booms downward on the seabed.

In very calm seas, don't fish to a dead tight line though. Fish a slightly slack line and watch the slack in the line for lift bites. This tactic also works when you're fishing into deeper water from high up, say off piers and breakwaters. However, you need to slacken the line off more, say four or five feet, to get that necessary slack to bring the booms down. Slacken off more if you feel it's necessary when fishing in a tide run.

TACTICS AND TIPS

Fishing two rods, both with boom rigs on, allows instant comparison regarding which baits are more effective on the day. Up your work rate and move the baits around; use lug on the bottom hook, mackerel on the second hook and sandeel on the top hook, then reverse it before putting the lug in the middle and swap the fish baits on the other two. It's such a simple thing to do but on its day can make a huge difference. If you find all the bites are coming to one bait, use it on all the hooks to maximise bites.

Always take note of which booms are catching fish. Usually, it's the lower boom nearest the lead which is the most successful. If you make your rigs around 50in in length and use either neoprene or rig gum stop knots that slide on the rig body line to trap the booms and beads, you can reposition the booms while fishing. Start with the lower boom up tight behind the lead link, the middle boom 22in above the lead link and the top boom 48in. This spreads the baits neatly and widens the scent trail for maximum attraction. If the bottom boom is taking the bulk of the fish, slide the middle boom down to be 15in above the link, with the top boom slid down to be 32in from the clip. This tightens the bait pattern and brings all three hooks into the zone the fish are feeding in.

It works the opposite way too, moving the lower and middle booms higher if the middle or top boom are taking the bulk of the fish.

A little trick that can add a few fish to the bag when you're fishing lively surf conditions is to pinch a split shot, say a BB up to an SSG, onto the hook length about two inches above the hook.

This adds just enough weight to keep the boom down and stabilise a small bait to keep it more static. Fish don't always want to chase a moving bait. One that sits still on the seabed can be taken easily with much less effort.

The use of attractor beads and bright lumo leads are a marmite thing when fishing booms. They do work on their day, but we're looking for the booms to present the bait better and adding beads can affect this, especially when using smaller baits and hooks. Likewise bright leads which work best when on the move as they are covering ground. Fished as a static attractor, even at night, they are way less effective. If you want to try an attractor bead, say in coloured water or at night, try sliding a 3mm lumo bead onto a fluorocarbon boom and let this slide down to the hook length knot where it butts up to the heated bulb. Alternatively, use a short section of luminous tubing to replace the neoprene tubing over the hook length knot. Charge both beads and tubing with either a headlight, phone torch or ultra-violet light torch for longevity and maximum brightness.

Also be prepared to add a rig gum sliding stop knot between the hook and the lumo bead or tubing and slide them away from the hook a couple of inches if bites remain slow. This is close enough to the bait to attract fish in, but not so close that it might put fish less inclined to feed off tasting the bait.

Some may feel that booms are old-fashioned and outdated, but with a little thought it's a rig that can outperform many of the current classics, especially at close to medium range, as well as target a wide variety of fish. Don't miss out! ■

Have your rod tips parallel with the sea and low down in calm conditions for better bite detection





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FLOUNDER

THE ULTIMATE LRF TARGET?

Light rock fishing expert Ben Bassett makes a compelling case for why the humble flounder is the perfect target for ultralight lure fishing – with his tips on hooking these ferocious flatties!

You spot the outline of a large tail on the silty bottom, the headtorch illuminating the cold clear water. Two pearly eyes reflect the torchlight as you cast your lure towards the flatfish, twitching it slowly into its view. Time seems to slow as your fogged breath holds like clouds in the still night air. The fish tenses, fins twitching with eyes fixed on this new intrusion into its world. Seconds pass like minutes and adrenaline boils up from the pit of your stomach. Then, with a snap of jaws and a beat of its tail, the lure is engulfed, and you strike...

This moment is what keeps me coming back to flounder every single winter. As the nights draw in, the sight fishing begins. There are few thrills like it, the excitement of finding the fish, the tension as you try to tempt it and finally the satisfaction of the dogged fight. But sight fishing is only one element of why I find this species so captivating on light tackle. For me, the flounder is my favourite fish species and one that I think deserves the title of 'The Ultimate LRF Target'.

Light rock fishing (LRF or Lerfing) has been around for over a decade, and is usually associated with catching gobies, blennies and other small species. The mini species do play a large part in our niche of the sport. However, once you realise how effective a finesse lure presentation can be for targeting larger species, your horizons broaden considerably. Bass, wrasse and all pelagic species can be targeted with LRF tackle, but I would argue it is the flounder that feels made for it.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD PREDATOR

Bait fishing for flounder is usually a slow, cold affair restricted to the winter months and mostly done with large rods, heavy weights and line. The bites are often slow to build and the fight unremarkable on heavy gear. Because we rarely see what is going on under the surface, we don't get ▶



“These are no slow chewers of worms, this is an ambush predator that is quite willing to chase down prey even in midwater and can be targeted in almost every month of the year”

to appreciate how predatory flounder are. These are no slow chewers of worms, this is an ambush predator that is quite willing to chase down prey even in midwater and can be targeted in almost every month of the year.

I have caught flounder with sandeels still in their mouths, or coughing up two gobies at once. These are clearly a predator of more than just invertebrates, which is made especially clear when you witness them smashing into baitfish shoals on the surface in a feeding frenzy. These are also avid prawn and shrimp hunters and consume large numbers of small fish. Anything that can fit in their mouths is a target.

But the most impressive predatory feat from them is reserved for the crabs; flounder love crustaceans and are excellent at hunting them. One of my favourite fishing memories came when I was sight fishing a particularly stubborn flounder. This fish did not want to take any lures and stayed perfectly still until a crab, about the size of its head, appeared. The crab arrogantly and foolishly sauntered up to the fish and pinched its fin. As if fired up by this encounter, the flounder pivoted to face the crab eye to eye, raised up and smashed the crab into the ground with its mouth, engulfing it in one great mouthful. I had heard reports of them doing it, but to see it first hand was awe-inspiring. ▶



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THE HISTORY OF FLOUNDER ON LURES

Targeting flounder on lures is nothing new. Even before LRF was introduced, anglers have been using metal spoons, albeit baited with ragworm, to catch them for decades. It doesn't take a huge leap in imagination to work out that these flatfish can be targeted with soft plastic worm imitations, and from there you can work out what else you can catch them on.

Once finesse lure angling really began to become popular in the UK, with the influx of ultralight tackle and lures from Japan and the US, it didn't take long for anglers to realise these techniques could be turned to flounder. The days of the baited spoon were now numbered as the lures and tackle became more refined.

For me, no talk of flounder on lures would be complete without mentioning the anglers who showed me it was possible. Three anglers that were a direct influence on my thinking and caused me to become rather obsessed with the species were Andy Mytton, Josh Fletcher and Will Pender. Seeing the photos and other content from these trailblazers inspired my yearning to work the flounder out, and that is what I have spent the last five years doing.

WHY ARE FLOUNDER PERFECT FOR LRF?

Large bass and ballan wrasse can be landed on ultralight tackle, but it is a risk and often leads to snap offs, especially around rough ground. Most LRF tackle simply can't bully big fish out of snags or in strong currents; it is not what it is designed for. But you can realistically expect to land most flounder you hook on finesse tackle. A specimen flounder weighs around two to four pounds which is perfectly landable on all but the very lightest set-ups.

The species also prefers areas with only minimal snags. The worst you will have to deal with are seaweed beds or the occasional shopping trolley. They are normally found in areas of slack water or reduced current and feed best on neap tides, meaning you can get away with using light weights to present your lure effectively. This gives LRF anglers a big advantage as the lure doesn't have to be tied on with thick line or with lots of swivels, snaps and weights.

Flounder are easily seduced by lures, and this is a subject that keeps my mind whirring as I view every new lure thinking, would a flounder take that? The answer is usually a resounding yes. If I can find something that imitates a small fish,

crab, shrimp or worm, I feel very confident I can find a flounder that will take it. Good entry level artificials are the infamous Isome worms by Marukyu or Berkley Gulp, but anything from soft plastic grubs, pin tails, ball tails and paddles to metal jigs and even crankbaits can catch flounder when worked in their strike zone.

These fish can be very aggressive, but it certainly helps to know your venue and work out how best to approach it in all conditions and seasons. The ways I approach a venue are by feel and by sight.

BY FEEL

When fishing blind to what is under the water, or with limited visibility, we need to fish by feel. LRF rods are perfect for this, as they register each nibble on the lure, either by the vibrations feeding down the blank or by seeing the rod tip bounce. You can use tubular tipped rods but the very best for this are the solid tips. Because flounder aren't as powerful as mullet or bass, you can use very light rods. But you do feel the benefit of having some backbone, which is why rods designed for 'Aji' (the Japanese word for horse mackerel), with their solid tips and stiff blanks, can be very effective for pulling flounder away from snags. However, almost any rod rated up to 15 grams casting weight will do the job.

“For me, sight fishing is the single most exciting way to catch fish, night or day. Sight fishing rewards keen eyes, stealth and, most importantly, the right tackle”





of line to the hook instead of being tied directly on the mainline, using a snood of no more than two or three inches, it provides much better presentation when fishing at distance. The lure will trail behind instead of being dragged to the bottom by the angle of the line and the angler.

If the distance isn't too great, and the tide won't render it impossible, my favourite way to fish open water marks is with a jighead. A simple ball jighead with a hook size that matches a lure around two inches (normally an 6 or 8 size hook is perfect.) The trick is to find the right weight that keeps the lure in the strike zone, no more than two feet from the bottom, without going so heavy that it just buries in the mud once it hits the bottom. A 2g or 3g jighead is a great place to start.

In my experience, when fishing estuaries or harbours where the tide regularly floods and ebbs, there are two windows for catching flounder. The first is the very first flood of the tide, as the flounder push up with the onrushing water. The flooding fish are often fired up and greedy, leading to hard hitting takes. The flood is a very small window, though, and the fish move past you quickly, so I mostly focus on the ebb. As soon as the tide begins to turn back out to sea, there is a longer window of flounder bites as the fish make their way back down the estuary.

TECHNIQUE

This depends on your lure choice but a slow lift and fall, with long pauses leaving it completely still is by far the simplest and most effective. The flounder will chase and ambush your lure, often as it has just stopped, having followed it from distance.

If a larger fish has taken, you often just get one solid thump as the fish engulfs the lure, and if it is a smaller flattie then the rod tip will rattle. Let the bite build and even a tiny flounder will get its mouth around a surprisingly large lure.

BY SIGHT

For me, sight fishing is the single most exciting way to catch fish, night or day. Sight fishing rewards keen eyes, stealth and, most importantly, the right tackle. It is no good spotting a flounder and plonking a two-ounce weight on its head. This is where LRF is king. I try to use the lightest weights I can get away with so the lure will be presented as naturally as possible. If I can see the flounder there is a good chance the fish can see me, clearly it pays to be subtle, which isn't always required with the species in other situations.

Flounder have incredible camouflage but can be very obvious once you know what to look for. The two easiest tells are the head and the tail. The large tail is often the only part of the body fully visible as the rest of the fish is covered by silt or sand. At night, the eyes will reflect your torchlight and can be quite obvious if the angle is right. When flounder are actively hunting they will be quite brazen and sit on top of light sand, weed or even bricks and other debris, which makes them very easy to spot. If you are lucky and keen eyed enough to spot them with their head poking out of cover, these are often the most aggressive takers. ►



If I'm fishing estuaries or beaches I prefer to use braided line rated to either 8lb or 6lb, depending on how heavy the weight is I am using to fish effectively. Around harbours I may use the 6lb braid or go much lighter and use 1.5lb breaking strain Ester (polyester) line. This is purely for fishing lures on very light jigheads (under a gram) or even weightless, where conditions allow, and often for sight fishing – more on that later. I couple almost every mainline with a fine 3lb fluorocarbon leader. You can use heavier but 3lb is ample and provides excellent presentation.

Open water is often daunting to approach but can be very rewarding. My favourite searching rig is the snooded dropshot. The regular dropshot is very direct but isn't great for presenting a lure at distance. With the simple addition of a length



Obviously for effective sight fishing the water needs to be clear and you need to be able to see the bottom. Common marks for this tend to be harbours as the high walls give you a great vantage point, plus the bottom tends to be quite uniform. Rivers and beaches can also be excellent, but are less consistent and can be very temperamental, depending on tide and weather. You will normally have to wade to find fish in these venues but, in my experience, estuaries and beaches often hold bolder fish. The difference being that fish living in harbours are often not on the feed when you find them, whereas in more natural settings, the flounder are actively hunting with the moving tide.

This brings us to the greatest source of tension in sight fishing, just because you have spotted a flounder doesn't mean it will take. There are many variables. First, it is about the confidence of the fish. At night, try to reduce the headtorch to the lowest light required to see the fish and keep movements to a minimum. The most confident bites are often from fish that are further away, in deeper water or are facing away from you.

Occasionally, that just doesn't happen and the fish eventually spooks. In the day, keep an eye on your shadow and minimise your outline to the fish, keep low and behind the fish if you can. In both cases it is best to cast upstream and bring the lure towards its head in slow natural movements.

The two best ways to present a lure to a sitting flounder are dropshot and jighead. Jigheads are the most straightforward, as it is very much a point and shoot technique: find the fish, cast



near it and twitch the lure past its head. Flounder aficionado Andy Mytton put me on to using a dropshot rig for sight fishing years ago and it is very effective. The reason being that you can hold the lure above the flounder's head, lowering it up and down as you need to. If you can get a flounder to raise up and investigate the lure, the fish is yours, almost every time.

In conclusion, flounder are a bold, widely accessible target on LRF tackle that can grow to real rod-bending size. With their quirky looks and hunger for almost any small lure, they are a species that rewards the angler that targets them. With every new season and every flooding tide, new potential fish move in and any bite could be that magic three pounder. This is why I believe that *platichthys flesus*, the European flounder, is the ultimate LRF target. ■



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THE FAL ESTUARY

The Carrick Roads is an expanse of water immediately north of Falmouth which has been used as an anchorage for shipping for hundreds of years ('roads' means anchorage). It is fed by water from several rivers, including the Fal, and was created at the end of the last ice age when the river valley became flooded. The main channel, the route of the old river, is up to 34m deep, but the edges are characterised by many areas of shallow, crystal-clear water. To the south, the Penryn and Percuil rivers join with the Carrick Roads to meet the sea east of Falmouth. The rocky shore and deep-water estuary combine to provide a rich environment for many species ranging from sandeels to tuna, and there are exceptional fishing opportunities for both novice and experienced anglers alike.

GEOGRAPHY

The deep water that characterises the main channel of the Carrick Roads provides a unique opportunity when it comes to targeting species normally regarded as migratory. For example, mackerel will often stay within the estuary system rather than migrating offshore. In fact, some of my most enjoyable mackerel fishing has come during the winter months. Although they are often more difficult to catch, winter mackerel are often much bigger, and provide a great challenge and sport.

One strategy that I find particularly useful when fishing or finding marks for any sea fishing (including the Carrick Roads) is the Navionics app. This amazing, free online facility allows you to easily see the depths of potential fishing venues in great detail to find fish-holding features. For example, when looking at the Carrick Roads on Navionics, you can clearly see the main deep channel winding its way up the estuary. At each edge of this channel is a steep shelf, where depths can go from 25m to 5m in a very short distance. These depths will then very gradually decrease as you move closer to the shore. By looking at the whole estuary in this way, you can use the map to find smaller gullies diverging from the main channel that remain relatively deep all the way to shore. It is these locations that the fish are likely to use to move through the estuary on both the flood and ebb tide, as food is likely to accumulate on the boundaries of these channels.

In conjunction with the Navionics app I will also use Google Earth to determine the depths and seabed composition when standing at a particular mark. By zooming in and using the distance tool on Google Earth you can find exact features and their distance from shore. This includes things such as patches of rock or weed beds and knowing where they are can influence where I cast. Although preparation

and planning may take some time, it is definitely worth it. The confidence you gain from knowing you're in the right spot definitely increases your chances of success.

LRF Species



Falmouth Bay



Pendennis Point



PENDENNIS POINT AND ST ANTHONY'S HEAD

Pendennis Point and St Anthony's Head are the two prominent headlands that mark the mouth of the Fal Estuary. Both provide excellent fishing opportunities. Pendennis Point is one of the most popular marks in the area, jutting out into the middle of the estuary and providing easy access to deep water. Pendennis Point is easily accessible; a car park situated at the very end of the headland means that there is only a short walk to many fishing marks. However, this does make the venue very popular, and there may be crowds of visitors and anglers during the tourist season. Nevertheless, there is some good fishing to be had here, so it is certainly worth a try. Species such as dogfish, bull huss and conger ►

WHERE TO FISH

are numerous in amongst the rough ground that surrounds the headland, and a nice mixed day's fishing can be had using simple pulley rigs and traditional fish or squid baits. You are unlikely to come across any specimens, but there are certainly a lot of fish around, making it an ideal venue for the novice angler. During the summer months, mackerel and garfish are often present as well, making it an even more popular venue. Due to the depth of the estuary system, mackerel can be caught all-year-round from this mark. Despite not being in large numbers in winter, they are often a much better size, and provide some excellent sport on light gear. The headland also provides a great opportunity for lure fishing, with bass, pollock, mackerel and wrasse often being caught.

St Anthony's Head provides a similar array of fishing opportunities, but more difficult access means that it is often less busy. At the tip of the headland is a steep path down, but a platform at the bottom makes fishing easy once there. As with Pendennis Point, this area is very rough ground, but it is perfect for targeting species such as conger, bull huss, dogfish and pollock, as well as many smaller species that are perfect to target on light gear. At both St Anthony's Head and Pendennis Point, there are some very good ballan wrasse to be caught, and I have had them to over 4lb. I target the wrasse with a light lure setup using weedless soft plastics which are perfect for working over the rough ground. They can also be targeted using bait, with crab and worm being the most popular. However, I would recommend using only one rod, as bites are often aggressive and frequent, so using two rods can cause chaos!

Further around on the inland side of the headland, the ground becomes broken with more areas of clean sand. Here, species such as rays and plaice can be targeted. Most of the time I will use a plain 5oz or 6oz lead when fishing these areas, as there is often not a great deal of tide. I prefer the baits to find a natural divot or gully in the seabed. However, taking a selection including grip leads is worthwhile, as at some marks there is a significant movement of water especially on a spring tide. In areas of clean and rough ground, both shore and spider crabs can become an issue, but this problem is easily surmountable through regular recasts and

Plenty of strap congers off most rocky marks



bait changes. However, when using fish or squid baits, I would recommend using slightly heavier traces than you may typically use, as the spider crabs easily damage thin lines.

CREEKS AND INLETS

Along the whole length of the Carrick Roads there are many creeks and inlets that branch off from the main estuary. Many of these inlets are completely exposed at low tide, and therefore

provide a unique habitat for many species. Crystal clear water combined with a silty, muddy seabed is the perfect hunting ground for predatory species, some of which, such as gilthead bream, are only found in this part of the country. Giltheads can certainly be caught in numbers from many marks in this area, and I have caught them to over 6lb. When it comes to tactics, I opt for a simple bolt rig, which helps set the hook in the gilthead's small bony mouth. I combine this with a 3ft trace of 20lb

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fluorocarbon, onto which I will tie a size 1 or 1/0 chinu. These short shank, strong hooks are perfect for penetrating the gilthead's mouth, and I believe that longer shank alternatives result in the bait being dropped more frequently. These hooks also work perfectly in combination with baits such as mussel, worm or crab which move slowly along the bottom when using a light 1-3oz lead.

When it comes to selecting the right tackle for fishing these small estuaries, I have recently started using a pair of Anyfish Anywhere 12ft estuary rods which are absolutely perfect, as you will not be casting any more than 3 or 4oz. I use these rods with DAM quick 6 5000LC size reels, which are perfect for light estuary work. However, any light beach outfits or even carp rods are suitable. I would not recommend using light lines as gilthead's are extremely hard fighting and there are plenty of snags such as weed beds and buoy ropes that they will head for. Couches bream can also be caught from these smaller inlets, and although not common, are certainly worth targeting. As well as bream, the muddy estuaries also hold good numbers of bass which patrol along the shallow



St Mawes

ground as it becomes submerged. Although they can be targeted with bait, my preferred method is certainly using lures. Other species such as flounder and mullet are also present in considerable numbers, with the occasional larger fish such as thornback or bull huss also being caught.

fishing over clean ground is difficult. Although your chances of success when targeting many species (particularly bass) can be increased after a period of rough weather, Falmouth Bay can quickly become choked with weed making it unfishable.

ACCESSIBILITY

Most of the shoreline around the estuary is accessible from coastal footpaths, but the convoluted geography means that getting from one headland to another can involve a very long walk. Traffic around the whole estuary can be a nightmare, especially during the summer months. A much more enjoyable way of getting around is by using the various passenger ferries which operate very regularly, especially during the summer, and for me are always the best way to start and end any fishing trip!

GYLLYNGVASE AND SWANPOOL BEACH

The main two beaches in Falmouth are Swanpool and Gyllyngvase (known locally as Gylly). Both beaches provide easy access to clean ground with reefs either side, meaning that a large variety of species are available. Flatfish, including plaice and sole, can be caught from both beaches as well as larger species such as rays and bull huss. However, fishing is made challenging due to the large number of visitors, and getting away from the crowds while still

PRINCE OF WALES PIER

Situated in the heart of Falmouth, the Prince of Wales Pier provides the perfect fishing spot for many species. Mackerel and bass are both present in numbers during the summer months and are most often targeted using lures and float fishing gear. However, the pier does get busy with both tourists and anglers during the day. A high volume of boat traffic can also make fishing difficult, but perseverance is key. Mullet are also present in large numbers around the stanchions, and can quite easily be persuaded to take bread – that is if they get to it before the gulls! LRF tactics are also highly effective along the pier as well as the many other walls and jetties that are present around Falmouth Harbour. Due to the large numbers of tourists, fishing can be made easier and is more productive at night. During darkness, it is possible to catch other species such as squid, which are drawn to the lights at many points around the harbour.

The Fal Estuary provides a plethora of fishing opportunities for a wide range of species. Whether you are a novice or seasoned angler, there is most certainly some great fishing to be had – so why not give it a go? ■



Lots of spider crabs during summer!

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MARINE BEACH FLEETWOOD

Spring sees the welcome arrival of plaice onto the clean sands of this high water venue. Local angler Ken Forrest shares the year-round fishing potential of this Lancashire mark



LOCATION

Marine beach is located in front of the swimming baths on the promenade in the Lancashire town of Fleetwood. It stretches from the channel up to Dronsfield Road but to the locals Marine Beach is from the Marine Hall to where the beach meets the channel. It is a shallow beach with extensive lugworm beds. The beach faces north so it is a good back up venue when it's too rough to fish at Cleveleys or Rossall.

You can only fish it for a maximum of two-and-a-half hours either side of high water but can be fished on any high tide throughout the cycle. At low tide it is nearly two miles to the tide line. Be aware that during holiday times it can get busy with families enjoying the beach and children paddling in the sea. Fortunately, though, there is lots of free parking at the Baths car park less than a minute away.



SPECIES

Late winter and early spring sees the plaice starting to turn up. These are soon followed by flounders. The best catches of flounder are taken when the first peel of crabs begins. Around this time bass numbers also start to increase. As spring moves towards summer the odd smoothhound and tope pups will get caught. Eels will also make an appearance along with an odd Dover sole. All through summer all the above species can be caught. September and October can see some bigger plaice and flounder caught, having put on weight throughout the year. As winter arrives so do the whiting, a few rockling, and hopefully some cod. Over the last few years there has been a big increase in the number of smoothhound and sole caught and there has also been a few thornback rays caught; unthinkable some years ago.

BAIT

Blow lug, yellow tails or black lug is the natural bait to use here and can be dug or pumped on the beach before the tide comes in. This is the best bait for the plaice and bass. It is also the best bait in winter for the codling, but you do need it to be rough to get codling on Marine Beach. Crab works well for flounders, eels and smoothhound, and mackerel or sandeel will catch whiting, dogfish and tope pups.



TACKLE AND TACTICS

There is no need for heavy tackle here: it is clean sand and not a snag in sight. A standard beach caster or continental rod with a reel loaded up with 15lb mono, or braid the same diameter as 15lb mono, is fine. You could also use a 2-4oz bass rod if the conditions allow. Unless it is a big tide and blowing hard from the north west you should not need to go above a 6oz weight. Grip leads are mostly used as there can be a bit of a tide run, but when conditions are right there is always a place for a plain lead.

When targeting plaice a one up one down rig is the most popular. Baits need to be worm – blow lug or black lug. Frozen black can be a killer bait on occasions. Keep hooks fairly small between size 4 and 1/0 depending on size of fish. Aberdeen pattern hooks are fine. Plaice can be caught as soon as the tide starts to cover the beach. The ebb tends to be better and the eastern end of the beach near the last few chalets tends to fish better for them. Sometimes a bit of distance makes all the difference when targeting

plaice. Similar tactics are used for the flounder but on a flooding tide can come quite close in. Moving the bait a foot or so every now and again can result in a bite. As for bait, if peeler crab is in season then use it.

Bass will get caught as you fish for other species, but if you want to target them go for a single hook paternoster rig with size 1 to 3/0 hooks. Fish when there is an onshore wind; night tides will be slightly more productive for them. There's no need for long casting; bass tend to come in close just behind the surf at times. Fishing for codling would be similar to the bass fishing, using the same big worm or crab baits. A point to remember is Marine Beach is uncovered by water for about six hours and if hard frosts freeze the beach the fishing will take a nose dive as the water temperature drops. ■

NEED TO KNOW

When entering Fleetwood head for the sea front. The Marine Hall and baths are the only buildings on the seaward side of the road. This is the place to park with free parking all day. When using a SatNav use postcode FY7 6HF.



TACKLE SHOPS:

Fleetwood now has three tackle shops who will supply bait and local up to date information.

■ Brooks Tackle and Bait
North Albert Street, FY7 6AA
Tel: 01253 872169

■ Fleetwood Fishing Supplies
3 The Esplanade, FY7 6DL
Tel: 07469 523981

■ Fishing Tackle Direct UK
Maritime Street, FY7 7 PB
Tel: 01772 356347



MONKSNASH

Considered one of the ray fishing capitals of the UK, this Glamorgan venue will produce fish even in flat seas and bright sunshine



Fishing close in over the sand can produce turbot like this one

Nash Sands extends for almost eight miles, running in a generally westerly direction from Nash Point a little to the east of Monksnash Beach, to the West Nash Buoy. If you were to draw a triangle connecting Nash Point with the West Nash Buoy and Sker Point to the west of Porthcawl, the relatively small area enclosed within contains one of the most productive fishing grounds for ray you'll find anywhere in the British Isles; and Monksnash Beach sits right in the centre of it!

TIDES

The optimum time to fish over the main sandy section of the beach at Monksnash is for two to three hours either side of low water, with most of the ray caught during the first hour or two of the flooding tide. When fishing flat and open beaches such as Monksnash those anglers capable of fishing a bait at extreme range will



always have the advantage, especially when targeting ray. Long range casting is not always necessary, but if you can present a bait at extreme range you can fish in what is often the most productive zone. For anglers of average casting skill, which includes the majority of us, there is an alternative way of presenting bait at long range. When fishing a flooding tide cast out and then as the encroaching tide forces you to retreat up the beach, leave the rig in place by releasing line off the reel, it's as simple as that!

Bright sunshine and a flat calm sea are not generally what you might call ideal conditions



for catching ray, or pretty much any other species from a flat sandy beach. Early in the season, from March through until mid-May, Monksnash, along with several other beaches in the vicinity, consistently produces fish under precisely such conditions. Low water on the prime mid-range to spring tides coincides with midday, allowing any sunshine to warm the sands. Then, as the tide starts to flood the beach, the heated sands gently warm the water to create sea temperatures just that little bit warmer than the ambient sea temperature creating favourable conditions for feeding ray and other species. However, that being said, fishing here after dark is nearly always far more productive than fishing during the daytime, especially throughout the summer and autumn.



The rocks at either end of the clean, sandy beach can produce huss, conger and a host of other species



TACKLE, TACTICS & BAIT

The main beach is pretty much snag free but if fishing over the rocky ground at either end of the beach it is essential to use a rig that incorporates a rotten bottom. When focusing on ray most locals use a pulley rig, typically tied with a long 4ft hook lengths that terminate in a Pennell consisting of two 2/0-3/0 hooks. The optimum bait for ray is a single sandeel/squid cocktail. When fishing a bait at short range for other species, such as turbot and dogfish, two or even three hook paternoster rigs are a productive option, again baited with sections of sandeel, squid or other fish baits. The sandy beach at Monksnash occasionally fishes well for bass, notably when a decent surf is rolling onto the beach and once again, especially after dark. ■

Small eyed rays are a top target species here



SPECIES

Fishing over the main, sandy section of the beach anglers mostly catch small-eyed-ray but spotted and, increasingly, blonde ray are also caught here, along with an occasional a thornback. If you are fishing near the rougher ground located at either end of the main beach the last three hours of the ebb tends to produce the most fish but the early flood can also fish well. Smoothhounds are caught here from April to September and the rougher ground is also productive for bass, conger, huss and rockling, along with whiting and, occasionally, codling throughout the autumn and winter.

NEED TO KNOW

Exit the A48 at Cowbridge and take the B4270 south towards Llantwit Major then the B4265 west towards Marcross. Turn left when you see Marcross signposted

then take a right following the sign towards Monksnash. Head for the Plough & Harrow pub and park in a field just down the lane from the pub, cost is £2 which is put into an honesty box on the gate. Follow the lane down from the field for a few hundred yards and then the pathway down to the beach. It's not an especially arduous walk but it takes 15-20 minutes, so travel as light as possible.



SAFETY

The cliffs along this stretch of the coastline are constantly crumbling and rock falls are common. Never fish or walk directly beneath the cliffs.

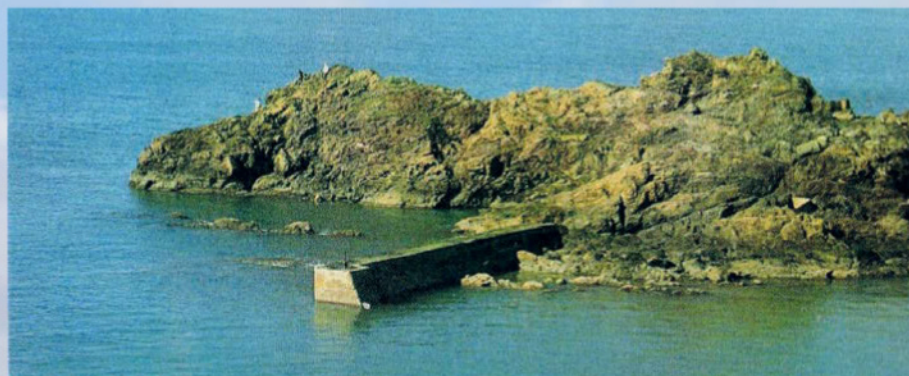
TACKLE & BAIT:

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Tel: 01446 679284
- Ewenny Angling Centre
Tel: 01656 662691 or visit
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BOLT HEADS & TAILS

This is a rugged stretch of the Devon coast between the headlands of Bolt Tail and Bolt Head taking in Soar Mill, Bolberry Down and Outer Hope Cove – with a plethora of fishing opportunities, as Mike Millman explains



The Bolberry Down shoreline is set below steep cliffs and is difficult to access. However, it's also a contender for the British blonde ray record and is therefore attractive to hotshot shore anglers who don't mind the height. They have overcome the problems of the descent by having driven crow bars into the cliff to which ropes are attached. The choice of going down is that of the individual; I personally do not recommend it. There are easier spots, but they don't fish as well.

The shoreline is a mix of sand, gravel and stone and there are patches of reef interspaced by the sand and gravel that extends far beyond normal casting range. The biggest blonde to come from the area so far is a fish of 29lb



caught by Rob Yorke (left) and it is the current Wyvern Angling Trust shore record. I have heard of at least 15 blondes that topped 20lb. Thornback ray are also a possibility along with bull huss and wrasse, usually of some size.

SOAR MILL

To the east of the down is Soar Mill, a sandy cove that is a break in what is essentially a long stretch of cliff. It is easy to access and produces blonde, small eyed and thornback ray. It was here in 1936 that the eight time in succession winner of the Australia to England Grain Race, the great clipper *Herzogin Cecile*, struck the Ham Stone and later sank in Starehole Bay. I remember well that her four masts seemed to be on a level with the cliff top where we stood to view her. I was just three-years-old.

BOLT HEAD

If you go a little to the left towards Bolt Head you are in serious wrasse country. It is possible to go further in daylight at the bottom of the biggest spring tides and in the hour or so before the water drives you back to the cove; a couple of really big ones could result. Buster wrasse in the 8lb class have been taken from boats within 30ft of the cliff, which shows the potential. Big baits banged out from the cove during the night hours would certainly achieve success. The cove is easy to get to from a National Trust fee paying car park.

BOLT TAIL

Outer Hope is at the Bolt Tail end of the stretch of coast. The rock island has a small stone jetty – you can park at Inner Hope and



make the 15-minute walk to reach it. It fishes well for ray, huss and I took a pollack of 3lb 10oz here that went for a sandeel bait. Sizeable conger are widespread along this stretch of coast to Bolt Tail. The nearest car park at Hope Cove is fee paying.

Although this article is aimed at shore fishing, Soar Mill and Hope Cove are good kayak launching stations but the Outer Hope would be a long carry. This offers very good fishing, particular for the rays on a dull, calm, day. All these marks can be found on Ordnance Survey Map 201-202 1:50,000 series. ■



LET'S PUT THE BIG GIRLS BACK

Did you realise that most bass weighing over 4lb are female? The bigger the bass, the more eggs it produces to replenish the stock. Robin Bradley explains why releasing the big girls makes sense for us all...

Unlike humans, big, old, fat, fecund (highly fertile), female fish – so-called BOFFFFs – produce far more, and often larger, eggs. These may develop into larvae that grow faster and can withstand starvation better, compared to the larvae produced by smaller mature females. The difference in reproductive capacity, as bass grow larger, is well illustrated in the graphic (with thanks to Piscoweb).

For each spawning season, a 60cm bass will produce more than five times as many eggs as one of 40cm (note that only around half of 40cm female bass will actually be capable of reproducing at this length).

An 80cm bass will produce more than 14 times as many eggs as a 40cm bass of half its size, and 2.5 times as many as a 60cm bass! So essentially, the bigger a female bass gets, the more valuable it is in terms of replenishing the already depleted stocks, and this reproductive value increases exponentially with size.

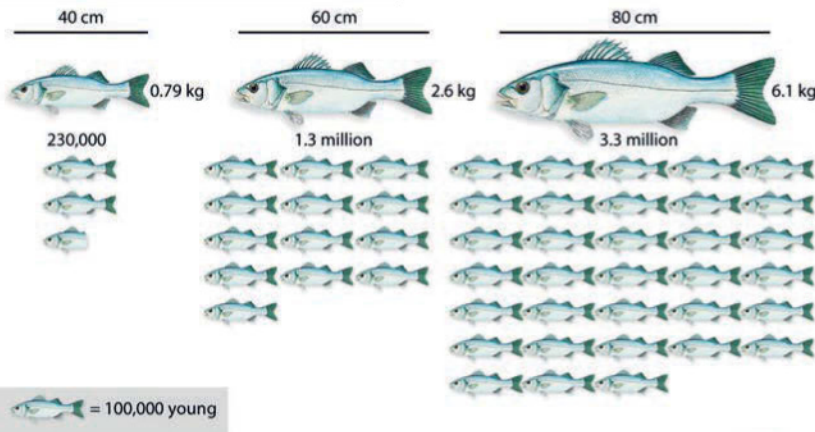
To me it's a no-brainer to put these big fish back, especially as there are so few of them left.

A recent analysis of commercial bass catches by long-time bass campaigner Malcolm Gilbert shows that only a little over two per cent of bass sold at Brixham and Newlyn fish markets were over 65cm. It's no wonder we catch so few of them these days – at least in the UK.

Robin with a 71cm big girl – safely returned to produce lots of baby bass



■ Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on www.ukbass.com or on Facebook or Twitter.



Average number of young produced by three different sizes of European seabass.

Here is an explanation of the Grades used for bass at commercial fish markets:

Grade 1: >4kg, over 8lb 13oz (70+cm) typically aged 15+

Grade 2: 3-4kg, between 6lb 10oz to 8lb 13oz (65-70cm) typically aged 12 - 17

Grade 3: 2-3kg, between 4lb 6oz to 6lb 10oz (measuring 58-65cm) typically aged 10 - 14

Grade 4: fish of 1-2kg, between 2lb 3oz to 4lb 6oz (measuring 46-58cm) typically aged 7 - 10

Grade 5: 0.5 and 1 kilos

Most anglers like to catch big bass; indeed, the prospect of this is what draws many to take up bass fishing in the first place and keeps them coming back for more.

Without a reasonable prospect of catching a 'double' (10 pounder), or at least an eight pounder, many will leave the sport, taking their hard-earned cash, which supports many businesses, with them; businesses like fishing tackle suppliers, charter boats, fishing guides and those in the tourism and hospitality trade.

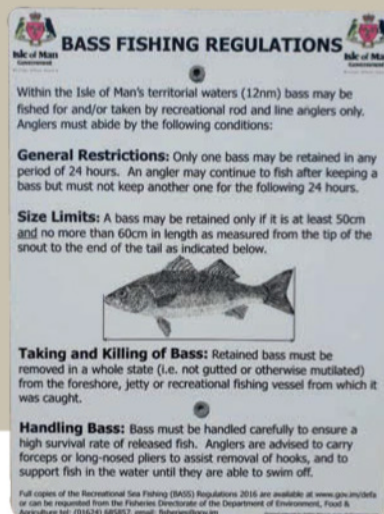
EVERYONE'S A WINNER

But it isn't just angling-related businesses which depend on these big fish – the fishing industry does too, for without them the spawning potential of the brood stock is greatly diminished, affecting fishermen's catches and their livelihoods.

So, whether you come at this from a conservation perspective, an angling perspective or a commercial fishing perspective, it makes sense to put the big girls back.

With the Bass Fishery Management Plan having been open for stakeholder discussion for several months and due to be publicly consulted upon this coming summer, it is reassuring that one of the draft proposals is the introduction of a 'slot size' for keeping bass. This measure could ensure that the larger female bass are protected, as we might expect any sound management plan to.

As long as a fish is over the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (currently a rather inadequate 42cm), each person will have their own ideas about what size bass to keep (if at all). The science tells us that only 50 per cent of female bass are fully mature at the current MCRS and that females of 60cm produce five times as many eggs, so for me, the Isle of Man has it about right, with their slot size of 50 to 60cm.



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Tales from the Tideline

with Simon Smith

ON PAPER

Simon Smith refuses to be beaten by a stubborn beach mark that ticks all the boxes but fails to live up to its potential

I am good-looking in a slightly unusual, rugged kind of way. I am witty and cultured, well-dressed, look good in almost anything, and am in reasonably good shape considering that my fortieth birthday is rapidly disappearing in the rear-view mirror. I'd like to believe that all of these statements are accurate, but the truth is that the only thing I really look good in is the dark, and I'm balding, slightly pudgy and rather clumsy most of the time. The rest of the time I'm asleep.

The realities of life and those things we wish to be the realities of life seldom coincide unless you are very lucky or blessed, often leaving a slight rift between the two. In some cases, this might lead us to bend the truth slightly or exaggerate some qualities: maybe that dating website application has you a couple of inches taller than you really are, or the job application form suggests that you are somewhat more talented with languages and musical instruments than might be true.

In other cases, though, it can lead us to become somewhat blind to the failings or inadequacies of something or someone, a kind of misplaced idea of what we think they should be rather than what really is. This is cited as a common mistake amongst novice anglers – the desire to fish for what they hope is there rather than what is actually swimming about in front of them, hurling monstrous cod baits out to shoals of whiting until they are frustratingly and consistently whittled down to nothing without a single fish being caught. From personal experience I can say that this is also most definitely true about fishing marks.

I'm thinking of one such mark (don't we all have at least one?) that has this effect on me time and again. Were this mark personified, it would be the beach-bully, throwing sand in my sad, weak little face time and again. Yet, like an idiot, I keep coming back for more with the notion that 'it has to come good eventually'. It has to do no such bloody thing, nor is it likely to.

To date, the sum total of my catches from a dozen sessions on this beach amounts to: one flounder, one school bass, one small codling and a dead dab washed up at my feet. I've lost count of the pounds I've spent on bait and petrol used to fish the venue and the hours of my life I've wasted upon it, standing like a useless plank of driftwood as nothing happens time after time. At various points throughout those sessions I have also managed to, in no particular order:

- Fill my left boot with water
 - Fill my right boot with water
 - Fill both boots with water at the same time
 - Torn a set of waders
 - Cracked off in three consecutive casts even though I never crack off anywhere else
 - Been stuck at the low tide line as my headlamp totally failed, leaving me to pack up and find my way back to the car, swearing and shouting in the dark
 - Hooked myself
 - Managed to find the only snag on a clean, sandy beach
 - Not realised that the retreating tide has left a very large pool, ten inches deep, in front of me, and proceeded to spend 40 minutes fishing into that pool.
- On paper it should be a great beach – there are a few features such as gullies and patches of slightly broken ground; the beach shelves slightly, meaning that there is deeper water at high tide, and there are numerous sources of food nearby, notably a lugworm bed. Sometimes though, that paper is best crumpled into a ball and aimed at the nearest bin, along with the last shreds of any dignity still clinging to me as I swear quietly to myself under my breath.

I was left pondering over this litany of past failures very recently as, once again, my bogey beach lived up to its reputation – during a five-hour session I couldn't manage a bite. As always happens in such circumstances, my mind started to lurch around between boredom and self-doubt, naming my current angling session in a desperate attempt to inject some of the drama missing from the lack of bites: The Parable of the Badly Chosen Mark; The Sorrowful Tale of the Inappropriate Bait and so on, with even my usually upbeat attitude starting to waver. And why should it waver so easily? Even now, in my forties, the little boy locked deep inside me still loves a bit of praise, that little pat on the head in the shape of the occasional rockling or eel that says Yep. Well done, you're doing



“Were this mark personified, it would be the beach-bully, throwing sand in my sad, weak little face time and again”

fine. When things are going well – when the fish are coming to the net regularly or being beached every session – all doubt is hidden beneath solid walls of bravado. But those solid walls are soon knocked down, leaving the angler feeling very exposed.

But then, would we have it any other way? Perhaps we are all, underneath, secretly a little thrilled by the idea that we may not catch anything at all, that we might test ourselves and be found wanting. After all, isn't it moments like this that prompted Terry Carroll to search for that extra bit of distance and establish the Zziplex rod brand, or those sessions in which it was almost impossible to keep a bait nailed to the seabed that prodded Tony Caton in the direction that would eventually lead him to create Gemini?

Sometimes we just need to plough on despite not having the answers. It's the not knowing that moves things on, makes us think and take risks, trying those new ideas that we wouldn't normally consider because fishing, both good and bad, isn't carried out on paper; it happens out there on the rocks and the breakwaters and the beaches, even those that throw sand in our faces. ■

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FANCY WINNING A NEW ROD AND REEL COMBO from Okuma by catching a great fish? In our catch competition, your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list. If you do, enter our contest and you automatically stand a chance of winning either our shore or boat prize.

Each issue we award a superb Okuma package to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit.

Prizes are awarded at our discretion and Okuma reserves the right to send alternative prizes.



Damion Fryer, St Austell

FISH: 4lb 10z ballan

BAIT: soft plastic rigged weedless

VENUE: St Austell rock **DATE:** 20/01/2023



Roy Repton, Teignmouth

FISH: 7lb 20z ballan wrasse **BAIT:** crab

VENUE: Dorset **DATE:** 27/1/2023



Tony Wright, Eastbourne

FISH: 9lb 100z thornback ray **BAIT:** squid/

lamprey wrap **VENUE:** Eastbourne beach

DATE: 01/01/2023



John Passmore, Barnstaple

BAIT: mackerel flapper

FISH: 50lb reef conger

DATE: 29/01/2023



Rob Bailey

FISH: 14lb 8oz bull huss **BAIT:** mackerel

VENUE: Aboard Sea Angler II out of Plymouth



Shaun Bacon

FISH: 19lb 14oz blonde ray **BAIT:** mackerel strip

VENUE: Aboard Sea Angler II out of Plymouth

DATE: 02/01/2023



Gary Mellor, Neath

FISH: 10lb 20z bass **VENUE:** Cefn Sidan Beach

DATE: 02/02/2023

MONTHLY WINNERS:

SHORE: Roy Repton, Teignmouth

BOAT: Greg Tadel, Southampton



Jeremy Robinson, Scarborough

FISH: 9lb 11oz cod **BAIT:** mussel and black lug
DATE: 17/01/2023



Harry Tempel, Newton Abbot

FISH: 10lb 6oz bass **BAIT:** sidewinder skerries eels **VENUE:** Portland **DATE:** 21/01/2023



Leon Turner, Portishead

FISH: 11lb 5oz cod **VENUE:** Clevedon
BAIT: lug and squid **DATE:** 22/01/2023



Nigel Ginger

FISH: 2lb 5oz whiting
VENUE: Aboard May Queen out of Cawsand



Greg Tadel

FISH: 21lb spurdog **BAIT:** mackerel flapper
VENUE: Needles banks **DATE:** 28/01/2023

HOW TO ENTER

Entry by email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of fish, weight of fish, where caught, date caught, bait/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the fish was retained or returned.

YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition.

To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk.

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	11lb 8oz	11lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger fish	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

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Wave Power surf rod
RRP: £80

■ **BOAT**
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Cortez Boat Rod
RRP: £90



THE RULES...

- Only fish caught since February 2023 are eligible.
- We must see a picture of the fish.
- We may refuse an entry. ■ Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
- Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).
- No correspondence will be entered into.

YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers



▲ **Liam**, aged-11, with a 5lb 13oz ballan wrasse caught aboard the May Queen out of Cawsand near Plymouth



▲ **Sam Watson**, age 10, holding his first ever dogfish caught on squid in the rain and hail! He was fishing a local mark in Falmouth.



In association with



◀ **Nathan Smith** from Hull caught this 8lb cod (left) fishing with his grandad, Chris Wray



▲ **Charlie Shepherd**, aged 14, is obsessed with fishing and caught this 7lb 14oz cod with his new Christmas rod, a Sonik SKS Black, using a Pennell rig baited with squid at Creswell beach in Northumberland.

▲ **10-year-old Tommy Bacon** with a 17lb 8oz blonde ray caught on mackerel strip aboard Sea Angler II out of Plymouth, skippered by Malcolm Jones.



► **Lyla Harding**, age 6, was out fishing in Northumberland catching flounder, turbot and this surprise sea trout while fishing with her dad



▲ **Nathan Scott** from Ayrshire was on his first trip to Loch Etive when he caught his first spurdog of 3lb 10oz. The fish was taken on a pulley rig baited with dirty squid.

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■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

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Speedmaster H Surf Rod	14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece	150g	Fuji Fastlite K-type		£199.99	£169.99
Speedmaster H Surf Rod	14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece	200g	Fuji Fastlite K-type		£204.99	£179.99
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Speedmaster H Surf Rod	14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece	200g	Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"		£194.99	£164.99
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hybrid tip models are added to the range.				RRP	NOW
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TUBULAR TIP Traditional tip action	SOLID TIP Ultra sensitive tip action	HYBRID TIP Sensitive tip action
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TUBULAR TIP	SOLID TIP	HYBRID TIP
Traditional tip action	Ultra sensitive tip action	Sensitive tip action

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Classic Mainline	4oz Spool	Yellow	£4.99	
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Ultra Mono	4oz Spool	Clear	£16.99	
Tapered Mainline	220m		£10.99	
Ultraflex Leader	65m	4 Colours	£4.99	
Ultraflex Shock Leader	4oz Spool	2 Colours	£10.99	
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Paul French, Sea Angler Magazine

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Tournament Match Pro Mk2

Tournament Match Pro Mk2
Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer
Casts 4-7oz (125-200g).....**RRP NOW £525 £479.99**

Tournament Bass Pro Mk1

Tournament Bass Pro Mk1
12ft 6in - 90-150g
Suitable for Fixed Spool & Multiplier.....**RRP NOW £325 £299.99**

SHIMANO ULTEGRA

BX SURF RODS

The new Ultegra BX has a new improved blank with Hi-Power X technology. This blank stands out in strength and stiffness and reduces blank twist, making this rods at true casting machine. The rod blank is strong, stiff and yet light of weight. The Hi-Power X blank provides excellent casting distance and accuracy. All rods have the Cast Control Grip to facilitate a strong hold when casting.

				RRP	NOW
Ultegra BX Surf 13ft 11in	225g	Tubular	3 Piece	£299.99	£225
Ultegra BX Surf 13ft 11in	225g	Solid	3 Piece	£299.99	£225
Ultegra BX Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Tubular	3 Piece	£309.99	£225
Ultegra BX Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Solid	3 Piece	£309.99	£229

SHIMANO NEXAVE

SURF LITE / ROUGH GROUND

The Nexave 2PC is a strong rod with a fast progressive action with good casting qualities. It comes in 2 models: a Lite version (good for allround usage with leads up to max 120 gram) and a Rough Ground version (for heavy-duty usage with leads up to 225 gram). The Lite has a Pac Bay Plate reel seat and the Rough Ground a Shimano Sliding reel seat. This sliding reel seat gives the angler full control, because with this the height of the reel can be adjusted.

Can be adjusted.			RRP	PRICE
Nexave Surf Lite	13ft 120g / 4.25oz	2 Piece	£134.99	£89
Nexave Surf Rough Ground	13ft 225g / 5.3oz	2 Piece	£139.99	£99

SHIMANO VENGEANCE

SURF RODS

- Strongly improved blank which has much more power. The rod is much stiffer, more responsive and powerful. This results in better casting distance.
- The tip sections have reduced diameters (0.5 mm less) which makes them lighter and more sensitive for better bite registration.
- Cast Control Grip for good grip when casting.

			RRP	NOW
Vengeance BX Tubular Surf Rod	4.25m - 225g / 6-8oz	3 Piece	£99.99	£69
Vengeance BX Tubular Surf Rod	4.5m - 225g / 6-8oz	3 Piece	£104.99	£79
Vengeance BX Solid Surf Rod	4.25m - 225g / 6-8oz	3 Piece	SOLD OUT	
Vengeance BX Solid Surf Rod	4.5m - 225g / 6-8oz	3 Piece	SOLD OUT	
Vengeance Surf Rough Ground	3.96m - 225g / 6-8oz	2 Piece	£104.99	£79

SHIMANO VENGEANCE

BASS RODS FOR 2023

BASS RODS				CX SEA BASS RODS											
8ft	6-28g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT	7ft	7-35g	10-50g	15-60g	2 Piece	from £25	8ft	LRF	3-15g	2 Piece	£54.99	
9ft	6-28g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT	8ft	7-35g	10-50g	15-60g	2 Piece	from £25	9ft	6-28g	10-50g	2 Piece	£59.99	
9ft	8-42g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT	9ft	10-50g	15-60g		2 Piece	from £45	10ft	8-42g	10-38g	2 Piece	£68.99	
															
LUNAMIS BASS RODS				BLUE ROMANCE ULTRA POWERGAME SALTWATER SPINNING RODS				DIALUNA BASS RODS							
8ft	6-25g	7-35g	£329.99	8ft	40-100g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT	8ft	3-21g	2 Piece	RRP	NOW			
9ft	6-25g	7-35g	£329.99	9ft	40-100g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT	9ft	3-21g	2 Piece	£229.99	£199			
9ft	7-35g	10-45g	£349.99	10ft	40-100g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT	9ft	6-28g	4 Piece	£229.99	£199			
								10ft	8-42g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT				
								10ft	10-50g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT				

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

NEW

Reel	RRP	NOW
Surfleader C14+ Reel	£284.99	£14.99
Power Aero 14000 XSB Reel	£379.99	£19.99
Fliegen 355D Reel	£459.99	£99.99
Bull's Eye 9120 Surf Reel	£419.99	£89.99
Bull's Eye 9100 Surf Reel	£419.99	£89.99
Aero Technium Mg5 XSD 14000 Reel	£699.99	£549.99

SHIMANO BALT-WATER TRAVEL RODS

Travel rods for sea fishing

STC - Saltwater Spinning Travel Boat Rods

The STC Boat spinning rods are super compact, but at the same time light, strong, and versatile in use. They can be used for both jigging and casting and they are the ideal rods to bring all around the world to fish the salty waters.

STC Boat Spinning Rod	RRP	NOW
7ft 2in 20-30g	£144.99	£110
7ft 2in 20-50g	£154.99	£119
7ft 10in 100-200g	£134.99	£99
7ft 10in 150-300g	£144.99	£115

STC - Saltwater Monster Travel Boat Rod

It's all in the name: These rods are designed for monster fish! Your partner in crime when you want to fish for the monsters in the beach or salt, but still being able to fit in your suitcase. Perfect for casting big lures, like big stickbaits, poppers or crankbaits when fishing from the boat.

STC Monster Travel Boat Rod	RRP	NOW
8ft 20-110g	£169.99	£119.99

STC - Saltwater Dualtip Powergame Travel Boat Rod

Designed to give you as many possibilities with one rod as possible. With one single rod and one extra tip, you can make two fully different rods with two different casting weights and two different lengths. This is the ultimate rod for every angler who likes to explore new places or goes on a holiday but does not know exactly what to expect regarding fishing conditions and fish species.

STC Dualtip Powergame Travel Boat Rod	RRP	NOW
6ft 6in/8ft 40-120g / 150-300g	£214.99	£159.99



TOURNAMENT SURF

Built using Daiwa's unique carbon technology, HVF High Volume Fibre for a lighter stiffer blank. Bias carbon V-Joint has been applied for a more progressive curve and X45 in key loading areas to control torque during casting. This ultimately converts more energy for longer distance and improved accuracy. Furnished with premium Fuji K Alconite guides with and Fuji reel seat. All multiplier models are fitted with sliding reel seats with a fixed DPS on fixed spool and bass models.

Tournament HT (Hybrid Tip)

Surf Rods - 3 Piece

14ft - 3-6oz Fixed Spool Rings 3 Piece

RRP NOW

£340 £239

£360 £279

Tournament PRO Surf Rods

2 Piece

11ft 6in Bass Fixed Spool

2-4oz 2 Piece

£275 £229.99

13ft 6in Multiplier

3-7oz 2 Piece

£355 £279.99

14ft 6in Multiplier

4-8oz 2 Piece

£355 £279.99



SEAHUNTER Z

- Premium Grade Blank - Shrink Tube Handle
- DPS Slide Locking Reel Seat
- Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings

Seahunter Z Surf Rod

12ft - 3-7oz 2 Piece

RRP NOW

£110 £79

13ft - 3-7oz 2 Piece

£115 £85

14ft - 3-7oz 3 Piece

£120 £89

Seahunter Z Bass Rod

11ft 6in - 2-4oz 2 Piece

RRP NOW

£90 £69

Seahunter Z Bass Travel Rod

11ft - 2-4oz 6 Piece

RRP NOW

£100 £75

Seahunter Z Spin Rod

10ft - 1-3oz 2 Piece

RRP NOW

£60 £45



CROSSCAST SURF RODS

- Lightweight premium carbon blanks
- Push in joints for slimmer blank profile
- FUJI DPS reel seat
- Stainless frame guides with SIC rings
- Reversed butt guide
- Ring spacing suitable for fixed spool
- Aluminium joint rings for increased joint strength
- Ergonomic shaped EVA rear grip for better grip
- 2 year warranty

13ft - 3-7oz - Fixed Spool Rings 3 Piece

RRP NOW

£135 DISC

14ft - 3-7oz - Fixed Spool Rings 3 Piece

RRP NOW

£145 DISC

15ft - 3-7oz - Fixed Spool Rings 3 Piece

RRP NOW

£155 DISC

13ft 10in - 3-7oz - Fixed Spool Rings 3 Piece

RRP NOW

£125 £89

14ft 10in - 3-7oz - Fixed Spool Rings 3 Piece

RRP NOW

£140 £99



4, 5 & 6 PIECE TRAVEL RODS

- HVF
- X45
- 30X
- V-Joint
- Fuji 'O' Ring Guides
- Multi Section assembly for compact pack down
- Rubber Gimbals

Saltist 4 & 5 Piece Travel Spin Rods

6ft 5in - 28-84g 4 Piece

RRP NOW

£195 £149

7ft - 14-42g 4 Piece

RRP NOW

£210 £159

8ft - 14-42g 5 Piece

RRP NOW

£220 £169

8ft 6in - 80-140g 5 Piece Travel

RRP NOW

£230 £179

Tournament 4 Piece Travel Boat Rods

6ft 6in - 30-60lbs 4 Piece

RRP NOW

£235 £179

7ft 6in - 15-25lbs or 25-40lbs 4 Piece

RRP NOW

£235 £179



MULTIPLIER SURF REELS

7HT Millionaire

Tournament

RRP £225

£159.99

7HT Millionaire

Mag

RRP £399

£279.99

7HT Millionaire

Mag Super Tuned

RRP £595

£419.99

SL20SH Sealine

Slosh

RRP £135

£99.99

SL30SH Sealine

Slosh

RRP £135

£99.99



NEW FOR 2022

BACK IN BLACK

11ft 6in - 2-4oz MFS - £79.99

13ft - 4-6oz MFS - £99.99

14ft - 5-7oz MFS - £109.99

DOMINATOR XS

13ft - 4-6oz MFS - £134.99

SPORT 13ft - 4-6oz MFS - £144.99

11ft 6in - 2-4oz MFS - £79.99

13ft - 4-6oz MFS - £99.99

14ft - 5-7oz MFS - £109.99

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13ft - 4-6oz MFS - £99.99

14ft - 5-7oz MFS - £109.99

11ft 6in - 2-4oz MFS - £79.99

AKIOS CREED GP420

A BEAST WITH FINESSE!

2 PIECE • 4.20m / 13ft 10in
112-224g (4-8oz)

Challenging fishing situations are where the CREED impresses the most, be it rough kelp and boulder strewn terrain or strong tidal deep water rock marks. Offering the power to pull through snags yet a tip that provides sufficient flex to prevent the lead from bouncing out in strong tidal conditions.

RRP £449.99 **£419.99**

AKIOS FURY FX435 SRS

FEEL the FURY

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE

Looking for a high-performance rod at a respectable price, then this is the weapon for you!

A high modulus carbon blank with a glow-in-the-dark carbon power tip for a powerful action, fitted out with a quality Fuji sliding reel seat and SeaGuide guides, the AKIOS FURY is a serious piece of kit that doesn't cost the earth. Boasting a truly striking livery with an optimum casting weight of 4-8oz/112-224gm.

RRP **NOW**
£159.99 **£144.99**

14'6" / 4.35m • 112-224g (4-8oz)

AKIOS UTOPIA SX 420

What Dreams Are Made Of

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

The AKIOS UTOPIA is a superb all-rounder combining plentiful power, fast recovery, lightness and bite detection. The phosphorescent glow-in-the-dark tip is a godsend during night sessions. The tip slowly emits light energy absorbed from a headlight ensuring sight of tip action whether or not direct light is present.

RRP £329.99 **£239.99**

AKIOS AIRPOWER SURF 420 GTR MKII BLACK EDITION

THE 2 PIECE GLASS TIPPED AIRPOWER

CONTINENTAL ROD • 2 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft • 112-224g/4-8oz

Akios Airpower 420 GTR Continental Rod: 4.2m 14ft - MKII Black Edition. When developing the AIRPOWER GTR there was one primary objective, to develop a true all-rounder fishing rod suitable for varied fishing situations, one that offers ample power to cast large baits for large fish if needed, yet equally capable of flicking out a bunch of rainworm for plaice, and offering the feel and feedback through the blank to maximise the enjoyment of the fight.

RRP £449.99 **£399.99**

AKIOS WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS SHUTTLE

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new, innovative and durable fishing tackle.

6 Models - from **£189.99**

NITRON F-15 £199.99	6-LINE 5 Models - from £129.99	TOURNO 3 Models - from £229.99	DYNAMO 2 Models - from £79.99
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SAVAGE GEAR

Svensden teams up with Henry Gilbey & Mads Grosell...

Henry Gilbey & Mads Grosell have designed this amazing range of Bass rods, one of the most highly anticipated launches of 2021. Thousands of hours of testing & casting lures from the shore in various conditions have gone into the development of these rods & lures.

SG52 ALL-ROUND RODS - 2 PIECE				SG55 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS - 2 PIECE			
8ft 3in 7-25g	RRP £89.99	NOW £69.99	9ft 7-35g	RRP £94.99	NOW £74.99	SG55 9ft 9-35g	2 Piece
8ft 3in 10-35g	RRP £89.99	NOW £69.99	9ft 10-40g	RRP £99.99	NOW £79.99	SG55 9ft 10-40g	2 Piece
8ft 3in 20-60g	RRP £89.99	NOW £69.99	9ft 15-50g	RRP £99.99	NOW £79.99	SG55 9ft 15-50g	2 Piece

SG56 ALL-ROUND RODS - 2 PIECE				SG58 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS - 2 PIECE			
8ft 3in 7-25g	RRP £89.99	NOW £69.99	9ft 7-35g	RRP £94.99	NOW £74.99	SG58 9ft 9-35g	2 Piece
8ft 3in 10-35g	RRP £89.99	NOW £69.99	9ft 10-40g	RRP £99.99	NOW £79.99	SG58 9ft 10-40g	2 Piece
8ft 3in 20-60g	RRP £89.99	NOW £69.99	9ft 15-50g	RRP £99.99	NOW £79.99	SG58 9ft 15-50g	2 Piece

SAVAGE GEAR LURE BOXES AND WALLETS SELECTION

2 SIDED WASHABLE LUREBOXES

Keep your hard lures in perfect organisational harmony with these strong & durable, two-sided washable lure boxes. They feature sturdy and smooth hinges & tight-fit lids to keep your gear safely stored between uses. The drainage holes help keep the inside dry & the double-sided design is perfect for large hard lures with treble hooks.

Recommended by Henry Gilbey

Rollup Pouch £12.99	Rig & Lure Flip Wallet £14.99	Zipper Wallet 1 £16.99	Lurebox 2A 16.1x9.1x3.1cm - £4.99
Flip Wallet Rig & Lure Bags - 8 Pack £6.99	Zipper Wallet 2 £14.99	Lure Boxes - 4 Sizes from £2.99	Lurebox 3A 18.6x10.3x3.1cm - £5.99

SAVAGE GEAR LURE FISHING NETS

Pro Fineze Floating Landing Nets
The ideal Bass net for fishing off the rocks or on the beach - designed for lure fishing and fish care - great for Catch and Release.

Medium	Large	Full Frame Net 120-200cm	Pro Folding Telescopic Net	Pro Foldable Landing Net	Full Frame Landing Net
RRP £24.99	RRP £24.99	RRP £24.99	RRP £24.99	RRP £24.99	RRP £24.99
NOW £19.99	NOW £19.99	NOW £19.99	NOW £19.99	NOW £19.99	NOW £19.99

AKIOS AIRTORQUE 435

THE TORQUE OF THE BEACH!

3 PIECE • CARBON CONSTRUCTION
4.35m/14.5ft • 110-220g/4-8oz

WHEN EXTRA POWER IS NEEDED

The new AKIOS AIRTORQUE is set to be a big hit, offering even greater power and greater casting potential than the Airspeed. The AIRTORQUE, with its higher modulus HMX 43T carbon construction, offers 20% more power through the butt, middle and lower tip section, giving extra power during casting and quicker line pick up giving faster hook penetration.

RRP £399.99 **£299.99**

AKIOS HELLRAZOR 420 SS

Fish out of range? GIVE 'EM HELL!

3 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft
112-225g/4-8oz

The AKIOS Hellrazor SS 420 offers outstanding performance at an affordable price including Fuji guides and Fuji reel seat. The AKIOS HELLRAZOR is a powerful blank that still loads its high energy carbon power tip easily. Developed for the angler that's seeking to add extra yardage to their cast.

RRP £169.99 **£139.99**

AKIOS AIRSPEED SURF 435 MKII BLACK EDITION

THE BEST JUST GOT EVEN BETTER...

CONTINENTAL • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14.5ft
112-225g/4-8oz

Striking looks that will turn the heads of envious anglers right along the beach, but more importantly, the outstanding casting performance will enable baits to be sent out further and cover a wider expanse of ground than ever before.

RRP £379.99 **£339.99**

AKIOS AIRPOWER SURF 435 SRS MKII BLACK EDITION

YOU CAN TAME 'THE BEAST'

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14ft 6in • 120-225g/4-8oz

Now With Sliding Reel Seat Ideal For Fixed Spool And Multipliers. It Allows The Angler to Position The Reel High Or Low On The Rod

Arguably the most powerful three-piece continental style rod on the market, the AKIOS AIRPOWER has been designed with one thing in mind. To offer EXTREME casting capabilities. With its insanely powerful high modulus HMX46T carbon construction, progressive action and lightning fast recovery, the AIRPOWER sets new standards for modern three-piece rods.

RRP £439.99 **£389.99**

AKIOS SURFCASTING REELS

Fishing reels for beach fishing

Fury FX8 Fixed spool reel RRP £74.99 £64.99	Fireloop Fixed spool reel RRP £109.99 £89.99	The Gynvor GUV GX8 Fixed spool surf reel RRP £149.99 £89	Air Loop R8 / R10 Long cast fixed spool reel R8 - RRP £146.99 £124.99 R10 - RRP £154.99 £134.99	Utopia CX8 / SX8 Fixed spool reel CX8 - RRP £129.99 £109.99 SX8 - RRP £169.99 £134.99	Ironloop AK100 Fixed spool reel RRP £229.99 £199
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SAVAGE GEAR

Working with Henry Gilbey. Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. Read his blog on our website.

Mads and Henry have done an incredible job, not just creating the rods but crafting an entire range of product positioned specifically for the UK and Ireland's army of bass anglers.

Richard Taylor, bass of Svensden

SANDEEL V2 SINKING LURES		SANDEEL PENCIL SW SINKING LURES	
Designed by Henry Gilbey		Designed by Henry Gilbey	
12cm 22g 2+1	£8.99	9cm 13g	£8.99
14cm 33g 2+1	£9.99	12.5cm 15g	£10.99
15.5cm 46g 2+1	£10.99	15cm 30g	£11.99
17.5cm 65g 2+1	£11.99		
11.5cm 22g 2+1 Weedless	£10.99		
13cm 31g 2+1 Weedless	£11.99		

SAVAGE GEAR BASS LURES

Working with Henry Gilbey. Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. Read his blog on our website.

Gravity Stick Palatit Bass Lure 14cm 15g - 6pcce RRP £9.99 £4.99	Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure 14cm 15g - 6pcce RRP £9.99 £4.99	Gravity Stick Pintail Bass Lure 14cm 15g - 6pcce RRP £9.99 £4.99
Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g Sinking RRP £8.49 £7.49	Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10.5cm 35g Sinking RRP £8.99 £7.99	Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g RRP £9.49 £8.49

SAVAGE GEAR BASS FISHING PRODUCTS

Waterproof Performance Jacket Black / Grey RRP £129.99 NOW £99	Salt Pack-Lite Packable Jacket Dark Grey Melange RRP £129.99 NOW £99	Waterproof Rollup Backpack RRP £49.99 £44.99	Waterproof Rollup Bag RRP £14.99 £14.99	Specialist Backpack RRP £55.99 £54.99	Rig & Lure Flip Wallet RRP £15.99 £14.49	Performance Winter Boot £69.99
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DAIWA BOAT REELS
Fishing reels for sea fishing

4 MODELS
Sealine Sloss
Boat reel
from £89.99

5 MODELS
18 Saltist
Boat reel
from £239.99

3 MODELS
Saltist
Level wind reel
from £239.99

20 MODELS
20 Saltiga LD
Single & 2 speed boat reels
from £379

9 MODELS
20 Saltiga (G)
Saltwater spinning reel
from £899

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

Charter Special TR LD
Special 1000/2000
from £124.99

TLD LEVER DRAG
Single & 2 Speed - 7 Models
from £124.99

TORIUM A HG
6 Models
from £179.99

TEKOTA A
6 Models
from £189.99

TYRNOS
6 Models
from £199.99

DAIWA BOAT RODS
Fishing rods suitable for boat trips

Seahunter Z Boat Rods - 2 piece - 4 Models..... from £59

Saltist Jigging/Popping Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... from £169

Tournament Boat Rods - 2 piece - 5 Models..... RRP £215 from £159

Kenzaki Super Boat Rods - 2, 3 & 4 piece - 13 Models
RRP £190 from £159.99

Team Daiwa X Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... RRP £170 from £129

SHIMANO BOAT RODS

VENGEANCE AX SUM BOAT RODS
More responsive, stronger and lighter. Ideal for UK Shark Fishing.
7ft 6in - 12-20lb - 2 Piece..... £79.99 £69.99
7ft 6in - 20-30lb - 2 Piece..... £79.99 £69.99
7ft 6in - 30-50lb - 2 Piece..... £79.99 £69.99

VENGEANCE CX SEA BASS RODS
The go-to rods for anglers who want to start fishing for Sea bass & for anglers who are on a tight budget.
2 Piece RRP NOW
7ft - 7-35lb..... £31.99 £25.89
7ft - 10-50lb..... £42.99 £34.89
7ft - 15-60lb..... £44.99 £36.89
7ft - 15-60lb..... £49.99 £45.89
8ft - 7-35lb..... £39.99 £29.99
8ft - 10-50lb..... £44.99 £36.89
8ft - 15-60lb..... £45.99 £45.89
8ft - 15-60lb..... £49.99 £45.89

VENGEANCE PILK RODS
Designed for pilk / softbait fishing for cod, coalfish and small halibut.
6ft 10in - 70-140lb..... RRP £49.99 £35.89
7ft 10in - 100-200lb..... £54.99 £45.89
8ft 10in - 70-140lb..... £59.99 £45.89

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS
Fishing rods for sea fishing

TLD - A Stand-Up Boat Rods
This rod is the perfect choice when you want to fish for big tuna or shark.
• XT60 + Biofibre blank
• Machined from marine grade aluminum and anodized to prevent corrosion.
RRP NOW
1.67m 20lb..... £124.99 £99.99
1.67m 30lb Roller..... £189.99 £149.99
1.67m 50lb Roller..... £214.99 £174.99
1.67m 80lb Roller..... £219.99 £179.99

VENGEANCE - Stand-Up Boat Rods
• Perfect for small boats
• Ideal for UK Shark Fishing
• AIPS heavy duty SIC lined guides
• ALPS heavy duty SIC lined guides
RRP NOW
1.65m 30lb..... £64.99 £44.99
1.65m 50lb..... £64.99 £44.99
1.65m 80lb..... £64.99 £44.99
1.65m 30lb..... £64.99 £44.99

TYRNOS - A Stand-Up Boat Rods
• Ideal for UK Shark Fishing
• AIPS heavy duty SIC lined guides
RRP NOW
1.65m 30lb..... £224.99 £179.99
1.65m 50lb..... £234.99 £199.99
1.65m 80lb..... £249.99 £199.99

TIAGRA - Hyper Stand-Up Boat Rods
• High pressure carbon blanks + AFTD guides
• Pacific Bay Reelseat
RRP NOW
1.75m 30lb..... £414.99 £339.99
1.75m 50lb Bent Butt..... £434.99 £359.99
1.6m 80lb Bent Butt..... £534.99 £439.99

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

SOCORBO
4 MODELS
from £94.99

STRADIC C14+
2 MODELS
from £159.99

STRADIC FL
11 MODELS
from £154.99

SPHEROS SW
3 MODELS
from £99.99

SPHEROS SW-A
8 MODELS
from £164.99

ULTEGRA FC
10 MODELS
from £129.99

SARAGOSA SW-A
8 MODELS
from £199.99

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

TWIN POWER FD
11 MODELS
from £349.99

TWIN POWER XDFA
6 MODELS
from £389.99

TWIN POWER SW-C
11 MODELS
from £399.99

STELLA FK
14 MODELS
from £619.99

STELLA SW-C
14 MODELS
from £729.99

G.Loomis BASS LURE RODS

IMX-PRO MAG BASS CASTING RODS
Bass casting rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Mag Bass actions. Full cork grips and Fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in 7-18lb 1 Piece..... £289.99
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in 7-21lb 1 Piece..... £289.99

IMX-PRO BASS SPINNING JIG RODS
Bass spinning rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Spin Jig actions. Full cork grips and Fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 2-9lb 1 Piece..... £289.99
IMX Pro Mag Bass 7ft 4-10lb 1 Piece..... £289.99

okuma — MAKAIRA BIG GAME REELS —
INSPIRED FISHING
BIG GAME REELS

MAKAIRA MK-30 II
Big Game Reel
£525

MAKAIRA MK-50 II
Big Game Reel
£595

MAKAIRA MK-80 II
Big Game Reel
£895

MAKAIRA MK-10000L/H
Spinning Reel Left Hand
£695

MAKAIRA MK-20000L/H
Spinning Reel Left Hand
£725

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

Speed Master LD II
4 Models
from £219.99

TALICA
6 Models
from £419.99

OCEA JIGGER Silver
2 Models
from £439.99

OCEA JIGGER FCUSTOM
4 Models
from £459.99

TIAGRA
4 Models
from £549.99

Snowbee DEEP BLUE' BOAT RODS
NEW
Over the years, these rods have been steadily upgraded, but fans of the original Deep Blue range need not worry, as the latest Deep Blue' models, have an even lighter, crisper action than their predecessors! Finished in the same lustrous deep blue, with subtle cross-shipings and decals and using lightweight graphite reel seats and chrome-plated stainless steel rings to prevent corrosion. Accurately rated to IGFA line classes and at 7ft 7ins they offer the ideal length for the serious boat angler and include a module to suit all fishing situations.
RRP NOW
10201 7ft 7in IGFA 8lbs Class..... £139.99 £125.89
10209 7ft 7in IGFA 10lbs Class..... £139.99 £125.89
10202 7ft 7in IGFA 12lbs Class..... £139.99 £125.89
10205 7ft 7in IGFA 12lbs Class..... £139.99 £125.89
10203 7ft 7in IGFA 20lbs Class..... £149.99 £135.89
10204 7ft 7in IGFA 30lbs Class..... £149.99 £135.89

10201 - 8lb (4KG) CLASS
Ultra-sensitive inshore rod, for bass, plaice, brill etc.
10209 - 10lb (4.5KG) CLASS 'S-FLEX'
Ultra-soft Korean S-Grip tip section, for supreme sensitivity.
10202 - 12lb (5.5KG) CLASS
Perfect choice for the inshore angler fishing reef, inshore drop-offs, reef pollack etc.
10205 - 12lb (5.5KG) CLASS 'S-FLEX'
Ultra-sensitive tip, for heavier bait fishing, turbot, black mackerel & jewelfish.
10203 - 20lb (9kg) CLASS
Best 'all-round' in the range. For inshore fishing for bass etc., & the hardest fighting reef pollack.
10204 - 30lb (13.5kg) CLASS
Ideal for fishing wrecks. Powerful rod great for hauling monster conger & ling out of deep-water.

SHIMANO BOAT RODS

TECHNIUM ULTRA POWER GAME ROD
7ft 6in - 30-50lb Braid - 2 Piece..... £134.99 £99.99
7ft 11in - 20-30lb Braid - 4 Piece..... £134.99 £89.99
7ft 11in - 20-30lb - 4 Piece..... £134.99 £89.99
8ft 2in - 12-20lb - 4 Piece..... £134.99 £99.99

Beast Master PILK RODS
2 Piece
7ft 10in - 40-95lb..... RRP £84.99 £65.89
7ft 10in - 40-95lb..... £89.99 £69.99
7ft 10in - 100-200lb..... £84.99 £79.99
7ft 10in - 150-200lb..... £89.99 £65.89
8ft 10in - 40-95lb..... £99.99 £69.99
8ft 10in - 70-140lb..... £99.99 £79.99

Beast Master CX BOAT RODS
Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre for strength and power. Shimano Hardline Guides. DPS type reel seat. EVA grips for comfort and durability. NOW
7ft 6in - 20-30lb - 2 Piece..... £114.99 £94.99
7ft 6in - 30-50lb - 2 Piece..... £114.99 £94.99

SHIMANO SALTWATER TRAVEL RODS
Travel rods for sea fishing

STC - Saltwater Spinning Travel Boat Rods
The STC Boat spinning rods are super compact, but at the same time light, strong, and versatile in use. They can be used for both jigging and casting and they are the ideal rods to bring all around the world to fish the salt waters.
RRP NOW
7ft 2in 20-30lb..... £144.99 £110.89
7ft 2in 30-50lb..... £154.99 £119.89
7ft 10in 100-200lb..... £134.99 £99.89
7ft 10in 150-300lb..... £144.99 £115.89

STC - Saltwater Monster Travel Boat Rod
It's all in the name: These rods are designed for monster fish! Your partner in crime when you want to fish for the monsters in the fresh or salt, but still being able to fit in your suitcase. Perfect for casting big lures, like big stickbaits, poppers or crankbaits when fishing from the boat. gpp
8ft 28-110g..... RRP £169.99 £119.99

STC - Saltwater Dualtip Powergame Travel Boat Rod
Designed to give you as many possibilities with one rod as possible. With one single rod and one extra tip, you can make two fully different rods with two different casting weights and two different lengths. This is the ultimate rod for every angler who likes to explore new places or goes on a holiday but does not know exactly what to expect regarding fishing conditions and fish species.
RRP NOW
6ft 6in/8ft 40-120g / 150-300g..... £214.99 £159.99

DAIWA 22 EXIST
Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!

The future of Daiwa Spinning Reels is AIRDRIVE DESIGN. By reducing the weight of rotor, spool & ball assembly, a lighter rotation is achieved. The effortless rotation allows the angler to feel the true joy of trouble free function. This new chapter starts with 22 EXIST.

22 Exist PC LT 25000 G
22 Exist LT 20000-P G
22 Exist LT 30000 G
22 Exist LT 40000 G
22 Exist LT 50000-C G

RRP £850-£900
5 Models Available - See website for latest prices

DAIWA SALTWATER LURE REELS

6G Fixed Spool Reels
7 Models
from £99

6G MAGSEALED Spinning Reels
7 Models
from £159

20 BG MG Fixed Spool Reels
10 Models
from £169.99

20 SALTIGA (G) Fixed Spool Reels
9 Models
from £899

6G MAGSEALED
5 Models
Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!
RRP £850-£900 see website

DAIWA KENZAKI
"Nothing short of superb"
Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kensaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod
6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb
7, 7'6" or 8'
RRP £190 £159.99

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel
7 Models - RRP £195-£245 from £159

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

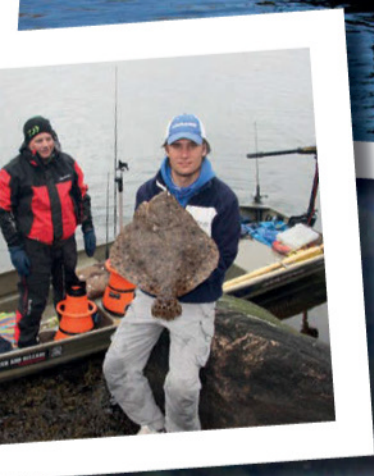


THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS...

Looking for something completely new? Markus Lundgren explains how Swedish anglers have developed a method of sight fishing for turbot in shallow inshore water. Could it take off in the UK?



Quietly scouting for turbot close inshore



In the search for new, exciting experiences, several Swedish anglers began species hunting in 2011 to develop a targeted fishery, mainly for turbot, in the fjord systems around Tjörn and Orust on the west coast of Sweden.

Now the fishery has expanded to the whole '8-fjords' area of the Swedish coast where there is a total ban on nets. The turbot can be found at a depth of just 6-13m from mid-May to September over moderately sloping ground with shell, gravel or pebbles. Flat areas between deeper and shallower waters, or places with some tidal flow, are always interesting places to try too. You can fish on the drift with bottom tackle as well as with vertical jigs and various rubber worms.

The vertical jigs in particular work well here thanks to the contact you get with light equipment in areas with weak currents. This is the essential difference compared to fishing in, for example, the Öresund, where fishing on the drift works better due to the strong currents.

What weight to use on jigheads depends on the depth and power, but 25-40 grams usually works well. We often use Vectra Vertical or similar hookless bait heads with stinger hooks. If this feels too light, you can weigh down your jigheads with sliding leads on the line. You could use a rubber bait but we always use natural baits.

Using bait is an excellent choice as well, and it's best to use long, narrow and thin strips of fish instead. The advantage of natural bait, of course, is that it smells, which can be crucial. When drift fishing, about 0.5 knots is usually just right. Lying still is rarely good and moving too quickly means you lose contact with the bottom. Ideally you could adjust and maintain your speed using an electric trolling motor maintaining the perfect 0.5 knots bite-inducing speed.

SIGHT FISHING – SPRING AND AUTUMN

During the spring, the turbot often migrate into really shallow water, and that's when sea trout anglers sometimes get turbot as a bonus catch. In April and May fish are found all the way into half-meter-deep water and you can hunt turbot visually if the water is clear. This new type of turbot fishing involves water 'binoculars' (like a bucket with a glass or clear Perspex bottom) to scout the seabed at a depth of 1-3m. With a bit of luck, you can actually catch sight of the fish and with a little skill present the bait just in front of it.

The boat you use for this fishing should be small and shallow and equipped with a quiet electric motor that does not scare the fish. Some use small rubber boats. We have a flat-bottomed boat that we can easily load onto the roof rack of the car and launch almost anywhere. The sides of the boat should not be too high because it will be too far down to the water and hard for the 'spotter', hanging over the bow and looking down into the water with the binoculars.

We use very short four-foot rods for this type of fishing. It is often difficult to fish with longer rods and at the same time look down into a water to be able to see the fish and present the bait correctly. However, it is important that the

rod is not too weak because the turbot can weigh several kilos. Even if they don't fight well, it's a challenge to force them up from the bottom!

At such a shallow depth it doesn't matter much what type of reel you use. Small reels work well. You can use many different kinds of baits for this fishing but most people use jig heads and jig bodies. They exist in lots of variants, are cheap, and are easy to present near the fish. The only thing that really matters is that the hook is powerful and withstands the weight of a powerful fish. We like a small black, white, and red shad, but we also always have a sandeel imitation with us rigged on rod number two. Sometimes it's what can make all the difference, especially for the bigger fish.

To increase the chances of hooking the fish, you can put on a stinger hook, that is, an extra hook on a dropper, on the jig head. However, we do not use this and you will rarely lose a fish with just the single hook on the jig. Turbot have big mouths and almost always devour the entire jig before you have time to blink. Therefore, it can be a disadvantage to have an extra treble hook hanging, as it can easily get snagged.

You can also even foul hook the fish if you happen to get too close with the tackle. Another variation is rigging the jig via a dropshot rig with a sinker at the bottom while the jig body sits on a hook a little way up the line. This method is used to allow the bait to hover stationary in the water, but also so that you can position the bait exactly where you want without it getting snagged. The dropshot rig also means you can

Sofia Minero with a turbot caught using sight fishing tactics



Markus with a typical turbot



Netting is banned inshore in the area



Brill can be caught sight fishing too



Three fish taken using a baited jighead



present the lure or bait in front of the fish and removes the problem of the boat moving and the bait being washed away from the striking zone of the fish.

LOCATION TIPS

As I said, this type of fishing is exciting and addictive. Fishing began in the 8-fjord area but has spread further around the coast. There are good opportunities all the way from Skåne in the south to the Norwegian border in the north. Since the method requires calm weather conditions you should look for wind-protected fjords, bays and beaches.

In the 8-fjord area, turbot seem to be scattered throughout the fjord system, and we've almost never blanked on a session; despite the fact that we've tested half a dozen fjords and are constantly trying new places. There is an infinitely large area to fish and there is no ►



**Perfectly
camouflaged – can
you spot the fish?**



point in giving exact positions. However, it can be helpful focusing on the seabed features.

Start by looking at charts and especially aerial photos with the help of Google maps. Look for areas that have elements of sandy beaches. But keep in mind that they should not be too shallow. Most success is usually on mixed bottoms with sand, gravel, stone and seaweed that go out to deeper water. There you can scout the border zone between shallow and deep. We have also seen fish on top of bladderwrack, in eelgrass beds, on cliff edges, on top of algae and even buried in the sand so that only their eyes have been visible. The fish are often located where you least expect it, but it's often most successful on the border of deeper water. Even rocky beaches can be interesting if they are not too steep.

The tip is simply to look almost everywhere, when there does not seem to be a clear pattern or any particular logic for where the fish are located. The areas that are really good in early April can be completely overgrown by grass or algae by the end of May. It's not just turbot though: there's plenty of species in 8-fjords. Sea trout have also increased thanks to net bans, fish conservation in watercourses and major efforts to remove old sewers and other sources of emissions. The 8-fjords are now counted as one of the absolute best sea trout ranges along the west coast. In fact, several times we've caught sea trout as bycatch in summer when fishing for turbot!

The brill are also there, but they seem to be harder to find. In 2015 we finally got our first brills. They seem to prefer fairly clean sandy bottoms while turbot can be found on just about any type of bottom. We have twice also got something as unique as lumpfish in widely different places around Orust. In 2011, a lumpfish was caught by a person fishing with live shrimp south of Orust, so they are probably quite abundant in the area. There are also plenty of dabs and flounder in the fjords and actually also some smaller plaice. ■





HERE'S HOW SIGHT FISHING WORKS:

1 A 'scout' lies in the bow of the boat and watches the seabed with the water binoculars. Their partner steers the boat slowly forward with the electric motor or with help of oars.

2 When the scout sees a turbot on the bottom, they quickly put out a marker (a special float that marks where the fish lies) and at the same time tells their partner they've located a fish. The partner needs to then back the boat up a bit so as not to overrun or scare the fish. An experienced boater can, if the conditions are good, keep the boat still when the other person fishes. If that doesn't work, we recommend anchoring. Whoever isn't fishing is responsible for netting the fish.

3 The angler tries to present the bait as close to the turbot as possible. Often you need to get really close because, in order to abandon its camouflage and strike, the bait can't be further away than a few millimetres. Avoid jerky movements with the jig.

4 You don't have to strike when fishing in such shallow water. Instead, firmly lift into the fish as soon as it has taken the bait.

5 The turbot are perhaps the most delicious inhabitants of the sea. But, please, do not keep the very largest specimens. Release them back carefully when you've weighed and photographed them so they can breed.

This type of fishing is incredibly exciting and because the turbot trusts its camouflage it almost always remains on the bottom, despite the fact that the boat is approaching it. Sometimes the fish refuses to take the bait, but if it is feeding you will have an amazing experience when it goes from stationary to engulfing the bait at a blink. Its large mouth and powerful body makes the bite brutal!

Shakespeare Agility Saltwater FD Reels

The Agility Saltwater FD reels deliver a quality, saltwater proof reel for a great price. Holds up to 150m of 12lb mono or 300m of 30lb braid.



SAVE UP TO £25!

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP4008	40	150m/12lb	£55.99	£30.00
SP4009	60	200m/20lb	£59.99	£40.00

PENN MAG4 Star Drag Multiplier Reels

- Adjustable magnetic brake system with extended adjustment knob
- Premium oiled spool bearings
- Fast gear access sideplate



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE2287	515	320yds/30lb	£169.99	£150.00
PE2288	525	270yds/50lb	£199.99	£160.00

Shakespeare Agility Surf Reels

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	£67.99	£40.00
SP3391	80	15lbs/360yds	£69.99	£40.00

okuma Distance Surf Arena Fixed Spool Reel

- Graphite blade body
- Worm shaft Oscillation system
- 1 one-way roller bearing
- Cold Forged Aluminium Distance spool
- Flex aluminium line clip
- Bail lock system
- Holds 210m of 20lb mono



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SV20018	DSA-60	0.40mm/210m	£59.99	£50.00

FISHEAGLE Expert MKII 2pc Flotation Suit

The latest edition of the best selling Expert 2-piece Flotation suit is state of the art and has been produced and conforms to ISO 12402-5 & 12402-6 regulations. This update has all the functions and quality that you are used too, but with a modern touch and extra safety features. Bib and Brace trousers that are certified as a 50 Newton Buoyancy Aid having been specially designed to elevate the top half of your body when in water.

The suit features a reflective tape for night safety, a stitched-in belt with ITW Nexus buckle and a CE 394 whistle. Made from a light, wind and water-resistant fabric, they provide comfort for any inclement trips day or night as well as safety in the water.

RRP £139.99
OUR PRICE
£109.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL



BEST SELLER

PENN Fathom LD Lever Drag Multipliers

Offshore fishing is challenging enough with overly-aggressive fish determined to keep anglers at a disadvantage. The PENN® Fathom™ Lever Drag reels take the advantage away from the fish and gives the edge to the angler.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1676	15	200yds/20lb	£239.99	£150.00
PE1678	30	235yds/50lb	£259.99	£150.00

SONIK SKS Black Surf Reel

The Sonik SKS8000 Surf reel is a full-sized surf reel which has been designed to meet the requirements of the UK beach angler. The spool design gives smooth long casts and the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SO0481	8000	220yds/20lb	£49.99	£45.00

JRC Winter Suit

A two-piece, waterproof coverall for the coldest days of the year. The pants of the suit have two pockets with flaps to protect against rain.



CODE	SIZE	RRP
PU14229	S	£159.99
PU14230	M	£159.99
PU14231	L	£159.99
PU14232	XL	£159.99
PU14233	2XL	£159.99
PU14234	3XL	£159.99

£80

SCIERRA Helmsdale Clothing SALE

RRP: £89.99

£45

CODE	SIZE
SV21839	S
SV21840	M
SV21841	L
SV21842	XL
SV21843	2XL

RRP: £139.99

£70

CODE	SIZE
SV21833	S
SV21834	M
SV21835	L
SV21836	XL
SV21837	2XL
SV21838	3XL

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OF GJ FARAH HILLDALE CLOTHING

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE FULL RANGE OF CLEARANCE HELMSDALE CLOTHING!

DANIMA Sealine SlosH Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'Slosh' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00

PENN Squadron II 212 Boat Rods

The Penn Squadron II Rods come in a big range from standard boat to travel & from light 6-12lb to the more beefy 50lb class rods.

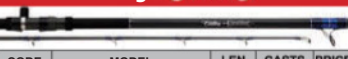
CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1811	7ft	20lb	5	£79.99	£72.00
PE1812	7ft	30lb	5	£84.99	£77.00
PE1813	7ft	50lb	5	£84.99	£77.00
PE1819	7ft	6-12lb	2	£62.99	£57.00
PE1820	7ft	12-20lb	2	£62.99	£57.00
PE1821	7ft	20-30lb	2	£69.99	£63.00

Shakespeare Agility 2 Boat Salt Rod Series

These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	£40.00
SP3945	Boat	7ft	20-30lb	4	£50.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	£50.00

Best Selling Century Rods



CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
CN0181	Graphex Match Beach	13ft 6	125-175g	£515
CN0182	Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster	13ft	50-150g	£499
CN0183	Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster	13ft	50-125g	£475
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£275
CN0180	Tip Tornado Beach	13ft 6	4-7oz	£520
CN0179	Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach	13ft 11	4-8oz	£560
CN0078	Kompressor SS Beachcaster	13ft 10	4-7oz	£465

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS, INCLUDING BASS, BOAT & SPINNING RODS!

PENN Tidal Surfcasting Rods



Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	£139.99
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	£139.99
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	£139.99
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	£139.99

PENN Wrath Spinning Combos



Carbon spinning rods that are matched with the great PENN Wrath reels.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2114	7ft	10-40g	2	£84.99
PE2115	8ft	20-40g	2	£94.99
PE2116	8ft	80-120g	2	£99.99
PE2117	9ft	30-60g	2	£99.99
PE2118	9ft	100-150g	2	£109.99
PE2119	10ft	20-80g	2	£109.99

Shakespeare Excursion Bass Spinning Rods



A custom PU grip enables these rods to be used in whatever conditions are thrown at you, especially on the shoreline. A white blank offers unparalleled bite indication and actions and lengths to cover all in-shore opportunities.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP4200	8ft	Med 15-40g	2	£44.99	£20.00
SP4202	8ft	Heavy 30-60g	2	£44.99	£20.00
SP4204	9ft	Med 15-45g	2	£49.99	£25.00

MITCHELL Suprema 3.0 Surf & Beach Rods



The ultra light-weight and slim blank have a fast parabolic action that is combined with a very sensitive tip.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PU10110	13ft 9	100g	3	£154.99	£99.00
PU10111	13ft 9	130g	3	£159.99	£99.00
PU10112	13ft 9	180g	3	£164.99	£99.00
PU10114	14ft 9	30-110g	3+3	£154.99	£99.00
PU10115	14ft 9	40-130g	3+3	£174.99	£99.00

FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Rods



- Designed to offer unbeatable value for money, ideal for the occasional angler or beginner.
- Suitable for general beach fishing but also capable of fishing in mixed ground and from offshore structures.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0549	12ft	4-8oz	3	£69.99	£49.99
RE0550	13ft	4-8oz	3	£79.99	£54.99
RE0551	14ft	4-8oz	3	£84.99	£59.99

SONIK Black Shore Rods



The SKS Black Shore Rods bring the world of top end surf rods to a whole new accessible level.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SO0244	12ft	4-6oz	2	£79.99	£72.00
SO0245	13ft	4-6oz	2	£89.99	£81.00
SO0246	14ft	5-7oz	2	£99.99	£90.00

PENN Squadron II Surf Rods



Offering exceptional value for money, the PENN Squadron II series features modern sporting blanks actions designed to achieve high performance in both fishing an casting.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE1809	Surf	12ft	113-170g	2	£70.00
PE1808	Euro Surf	14ft	113-170g	3	£105.00
PE1829	Surf	14ft	100-250g	3	£90.00

PENN Firebird Rod & Reel Combos



The Shakespeare Firebird Rod and Reel Combo is a 2 piece mid-action rod with a fixed spool reel that comes pre-spooled. Easy to put together and use, it's ideal for kids or beginner or intermediate anglers, or as an affordable backup or occasional use rod.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3809	Beachcaster	12ft	4-8oz	2	£35.00
SP3820	Mackerel	10ft	4-6oz	2	£30.00

SAVAGE GEAR Gravity Bass Stick Kit

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity. This 30pc+17pc kit is ideal for those seeking to fish with these brand new lures but need each colour in the 3 tail types with hooks and weights.

BACK IN STOCK!
SV22099
RRP: £34.99
£29.99



SONIK Vader XS Shore Rods



An incredible value surf rod that delivers unbeatable performance for the price. The blank is well balanced with a progressive casting action and excellent bite registration.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SO0622	13ft	4-6oz	2	£54.99	£50.00
SO0623	14ft	4-7oz	2	£64.99	£58.00
SO0624	15ft	4-7oz	3	£79.99	£72.00

Mitchell Bluewater R Reels

Perfect for newcomers to the sport, youngsters or even anglers who are looking for a quality spare surf fishing reel. The Mitchell Blue Water R Reel offers fantastic quality and performance at an excellent price point.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PU5521	9000FD	290m/0.40mm	£29.99	£24.00
PU5522	8000FD	370m/0.40mm	£19.99	£16.00

Shakespeare Boat Outfit

This boat rod and reel combo is great value for money. Ideal for someone just starting fishing as it gives you a good chance to experience the thrill without a big bill. The reel is right hand wind and also loaded with 30lb line.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4001	7ft	20-30lb	2	£49.99	£40.00

Shakespeare Catch More Fish Spin Kits

The Catch More Fish 2 Spin Kit is ideal for beginners and offers great value for money. The kit includes an 8ft/9ft rod with a pre-spooled reel and a tackle box full of terminal items to get you started.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4151	9ft	40-80g	2	£54.99	£40.00
SP4152	8ft	20-60g	2	£49.99	£40.00

IRONPAC Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
TX7658	13ft 6	150-225g	2	£92.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	£91.99
TX7657	14ft 7	100-200g	3	£97.99

FISHEAGLE Fighter 300L Multiplier with Mono

Very strong and reliable ball bearing Level-wind Multiplier.

- 3.8:1 Gear Ratio
- Pre-Loaded with mono
- Easily adjustable star drag
- Non-slip handle
- Right hand wind

CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
RE0839	20lb/310yds	£34.99	£24.99

Shakespeare Agility HRF/LRF Rods

A new concept rod designed to work small lures and jig heads up to 40gms from boats targeting smaller ground dwelling species such as wrasse, small pollack, cod, coalfish, gumards, bream, plaice, haddock and whiting.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3484	6ft 7	0.5-7g	2	£25.00
SP3485	7ft	5-15g	2	£30.00

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3948	8ft	10-20g	2+2	£30.00
SP3949	8ft 6	20-40g	2+2	£30.00

Shakespeare Omni Surf Rods

Shakespeare's great value Omni range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike, these rods maximise performance and quality at this key Shakespeare price point.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3994	10ft	4-6oz	3	£99.99	£25.00
SP3995	12ft	4-6oz	3	£49.99	£35.00

SHIMANO STC Travel Rods

The STC Boat rods are the ultimate sea spinning rods and cater for both shore and boat fishing situations.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SU12363	Travel Spin	8ft 2	14-40g	6	£179.99
SU12364	Travel Spin	8ft 2	50-100g	6	£189.99
SU12344	Travel Spin	8ft 10	50-100g	5	£144.99
SU14275	Boat Spin	8ft	150-300g	4	£144.99
SU12365	Shore Boat	9ft 10	150-300g	4+2	£199.99

VAN STAAL X Series Spinning Reels

Van Staal VS X-SERIES Ballless Spinning Reels are the surf spinning reels you have been waiting for! Van Staal took what is considered by most to be the best surf fishing reel on the planet and made it better!

- Fully-machined and sealed waterproof aluminium body
- Sealed waterproof drag system
- MicroClick drag tuning accuracy
- Heavy-duty stainless steel spiral-bevel main gear

BLACK	SILVER	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
ZE1678	ZE1679	100	350yds/20lb	£619.99	£400
ZE1680	ZE1681	150	440yds/30lb	£669.99	£420
ZE1682	ZE1683	200	500yds/40lb	£749.99	£460
ZE1684	ZE1685	250	600yds/50lb	£769.99	£440
ZE1686	ZE1687	275	400yds/80lb	£829.99	£480

FISHEAGLE Saracen Mackerel Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH
RRP: £89.99
£39.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach

- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721
RRP: £98.96
£49.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster Full Carbon 13ft 4-8oz 3pc Rod
- Shakespeare Agility Surf 70 Reel
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs
- Lureflash Powerstorm Monofilament

U116FSH
RRP: £171.96
£89.99

Shakespeare Agility Luggage

a) Packed with 20 separate resealable wallets, removable thanks to the strong velcro system.

b) This practical rucksack sports a waterproof PVC backing, and is designed to be big enough to carry all the gear required, while remaining comfortable to carry.

CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
A SP3443	Rig Wallet	£24.99	£15.00
B SP3441	Rucksack	£99.99	£25.00

DAM PackDown & Surf Tripods

Top choice for portable lightweight rod support, compact when collapsed and rock solid once in position!

CODE	MODEL	COL	LEN	RRP	NOW
SV17772	PackDown	Silver	6ft	£59.99	£40.00
DM2878	Surf	Blue	6ft	£69.99	£40.00

FISHEAGLE Hunt Lures

The all-new Fisheagle Hunt Lures are ready for all salt and freshwater fish.

COLOUR	28G 12CM	43G 14CM
Green/Silver	TA2529	TA2534
Fluro/Green/Yellow	TA2530	TA2535
Fluro/Red/Black	TA2531	TA2536
Black Pearl	TA2532	TA2537
Silver Pearl	TA2533	TA2538
RRP	£4.99	£5.50
PRICE	£2.99	£3.50

WESTIN Salty Lures

This bestselling Westin lure has it all.

COLOUR	7CM / 12G	9CM / 18G	11CM / 26G
Canned Sardine	WN2086	WN2104	WN2122
GFR	WN2088	WN2106	WN2124
Dotted Sardine	WN2089	WN2107	WN2125
Diamond Thiel	WN2090	WN2108	WN2126
Pattengrisen	WN2093	WN2111	WN2129
3D Yellow Ayu	WN3177	WN3184	WN3191
3D Brown Headlight	WN3178	WN3185	WN3192
3D Sparkling Herring	WN3179	WN3186	WN3193
UV Hottie Pearl	WN3180	WN3187	WN3194
PRICE	£5.99	£6.50	£6.99

SAVAGE GEAR Mackerel Jig

Superb Sea Fishing lures for Shore, Pier or Boat Fishing, excellent results for Mackerel, Pollack and Bass.

COLOUR	21G	28G	40G	60G
Silver/Blue	SV22057	SV22058	SV22059	SV22060
Silver	SV22061	SV22062	SV22063	SV22064
Silver/Green	SV22065	SV22066	SV22067	SV22068
Red/Black	SV22069	SV22070	SV22071	SV22072
RRP	£1.50	£1.60	£1.70	£1.99
NOW	£1.25	£1.35	£1.45	£1.75

SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel V2 2+1 Pack

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

COLOUR	12CM 22G	14CM 33G	15.5CM 46G	17.5CM 65G
Green Silver	SV23661	SV23667	SV23673	SV23679
Khaki	SV23662	SV23668	SV23674	SV23680
White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99

EVEN MORE V2 LURES AVAILABLE ONLINE!

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

CODE	LEN	WGT	COLOUR	RRP	NOW
SV26487	150mm	27g	Black & Red UV	£14.99	£4.00
SV26488	150mm	27g	Black Silver Green Pearl	£14.99	£4.00
SV26489	150mm	27g	Brown Ghost	£14.99	£4.00

SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel Pencil Lures

Extreme long cast design for amazing coverage. Supplied with both a single and a treble hook, with the option to add the treble hook to the belly as well.

COLOUR	9CM 13G	15CM 30G	COLOUR	9CM 13G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 30G
Sandeel	SV21960	SV21522	Black Copper UV	SV21966	SV21528	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV21961	SV21523	Blue Silver UV	SV21967	SV21529	-
Black Silver	SV21962	SV21524	Matte White	SV22335	SV23240	SV23245
Motor Oil UV	SV21963	SV21525	Black Pearl	SV22336	SV23241	SV23246
Black&Red UV	SV21964	SV21526	Lemon Back	SV22337	SV23242	SV23247
Matt White Tobis	SV21965	SV21527	Cotton Candy	SV22338	SV23243	SV23248
RRP	£9.99	£10.99	Sayoris	SV22339	SV23244	SV23249
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	PRICE	£8.99	£10.99	£11.99

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

COLOUR	8.5CM 11G	11CM 15G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 27G
Sandeel	SV19558	SV19016	SV17836	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
Gold Pout	SV20550	-	SV20560	-
Pink Pout	SV20552	-	SV20562	-
Matt White Tobis	-	-	SV19349	SV19351
RRP	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99	£15.99
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£9.99	£12.99

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OLD SCHOOL SPOONING

For Dave Lewis nothing beats his trusty vintage ABU Rauto spoon when it comes to spring plaice fishing

One of the oldest items of terminal tackle I have in my boat fishing box is an old 'flattie spoon' I bought from Landers Leisure Lines in Tralee, County Kerry, back in the very early 1980s. I do have other knick-knacks that I've had in my possession for longer. However, these days they reside along with the plethora of other dust-accumulating angling paraphernalia that litters every spare inch of space in my man cave, never likely to be immersed in saltwater ever again, at least not by me. My spoon, on the other hand, remains as efficient and effective as the day I bought it.

As spoons go it's a classic: an original ABU Rauto, manufactured in Sweden at a time when quality actually meant something and before the majority of the world's tackle industry sold its soul to the far east. It weighs 15oz, roughly half an ounce, and the last vestiges of the original paintwork serve to remind me that when new its once deep, glowing chrome finish was fringed with a lick of fluorescent red, along with a broad green stripe that added a dash of extravagance

to what otherwise is a pretty basic item of tackle. An old dessert spoon could very easily be converted into an equally functional spoon and many were. Of course, these wouldn't have ABU, 'Made in Sweden', proudly stamped on them; a seemingly insignificant detail the actual importance of which will only be appreciated by anglers of a certain age.

I don't know how many times I've fished with that spoon nor can I accurately say just how many fish I have caught when using it, but I'll say hundreds on both counts, which is probably an exaggeration. But without a doubt my little spoon has fluttered and flicked its way across various seabeds around the British Isles on many dozens of occasions, typically on those days when plaice have been the primary target species.

Throughout the 1970s, 80s and 90s, spoons were the go-to rigs that most plaice anglers relied upon. Now and then the short length of line connecting the actual spoon to the hook would be jazzed up with the addition of a half dozen or so coloured beads, but in terms of additional attractors that was pretty much it; how things have changed.

Fishing for plaice today is all about using bling, lots of bling. Some anglers appear to enter into competition with their fellow crew members in an attempt to see who can incorporate the most beads, sequins, mini-spoons and various other attractors into their rig; I've seen some pretty creative work in recent years. But the thing is, even the most outlandish, multi-faceted of these bling enriched rigs usually work, and will actually catch a fish or two. There is a downside to using over complicated rigs though: the resulting knot of a tangle that occurs whenever a squirming dogfish takes your lovingly prepared cocktail bait can be as equally impressive as the rig itself!

That plaice and various other species of flatfish are attracted by a combination of flash, movement and colour has long been known to sea anglers. You only have to flick through the pages of any sea angling book published in the first half of the last century, books such as 'Sea Fishing' first published by the Lonsdale Library in 1935, to find numerous references to the merits of using spoons as attractors when fishing for flatfish

and other species. Some of the earliest mentions of the spoon technique we are familiar with today appeared in issues of the Fishing Gazette published in the 1920s, but you'll also find examples of the use of spoons in books published throughout the 1800s. 'Sea Angling With The Baited Spoon' written by John Garrad, known as 'Seangler', published by Herbert Jenkins in 1960, is regarded by many as being the classic work on the subject. In it Garrad discusses the many ways in which anglers can rig and bait different types of spoon to fish for different species of fish including flounder and bass. It's well worth a read if you can track down a copy.

I started off plaice fishing using spoons, and today a baited spoon rig remains my rig of choice whenever drifting open, clean ground for plaice and other species of flatfish such as dabs, flounder and, of course, turbot and brill, all of which are suckers for the alluring flash of a drifting spoon. I remain convinced that the most effective plaice rig is little more than a variation of a running ledger that incorporates a spoon. It's a rig which is easy to tie, is mostly tangle free and, most importantly very effective at catching fish.

RIGGING YOUR SPOON

I start by sliding a boom onto the main line, or monofilament leader if using braid. I like to use 6-12in plastic tubi-type booms, which help minimise tangles. Next, I tie a small

high-quality swivel to the end of the leader, and to the other end of this attach about 6ft cut from a good quality clear monofilament line of around 20-30lb. My spoon rig is attached to a second swivel tied to the end of this 6ft trace. Most spoons are supplied with a small swivels but you can also use clips.

A short 6-12in hooklength is attached to the bottom end of the spoon, and this terminates in a long shank Aberdeen style hook, typically a 1/0. If I'm feeling creative I'll add a few coloured beads onto the hooklength. Almost all anglers agree that coloured beads attract plaice, but what colour? Some put their faith in the effectiveness of either fluorescent red or yellow. In recent years green and black have been popular; it's said they resemble the seed mussels upon which plaice feed.

On days when the drift is fast adding a little weight to the end of the hook length, such as a small drilled bullet or a large split shot or two, helps to keep the bait fishing hard on the seabed, which is where the plaice want it. My preferred weight to use when fishing for plaice is invariably another blast from the past: an old fashioned circular studded watch lead which hug the bottom beautifully.

Choice of the best bait is another source of debate on many days plaice fishing. The common consensus of opinion is that plaice favour a cocktail consisting of two, three or more different ingredients, combined to create a fairly large bait with a long trailing tail consisting of either a lively ragworm or a long thin slither of white squid. Other ingredients include all types of shellfish, especially fresh razorfish, prawns

and occasionally a long thin fillet of sandeel or even mackerel. Peeler crab is another firm favourite with many anglers.

TECHNIQUE

When fishing for plaice the skipper positions the boat uptide of the ground to be covered. As soon as the boat is stopped the anglers slowly allow their baited rigs down to the bottom, dropping down too quickly will invariably result in a tangle. When the bottom is felt the angler allows more line to flow off the spool, so that as the boat drifts down tide the bait remains stationary on the seabed.

After a minute or so stop the flow of line from the spool using a thumb, but leave the reel in free spool. Now the bait will be slowly dragging across the bottom. When a bite is felt, with plaice its usually a series of hard rattles on the rod tip or a solid thump, immediately take your thumb off the spool to once again allow line to flow off the spool, leaving the bait stationary on the bottom. This stops the bait getting dragged away from an inquisitive fish.

Leave the bait stationary for about a minute, then once again check the flow of line from the reel. Now you will hopefully feel the satisfying weight of the fish come onto the rod. If you do not detect any weight, free spooling line to the fish to give it more time to eat the bait can work. Following the first drift or two your lead should be bright and shiny, as a result of rubbing along the bottom. If it is not shiny use a heavier lead, or adjust your technique accordingly by allowing the rig to drift at a greater distance behind the



boat. I really cannot over emphasise the importance of fishing your bait hard on the bottom when targeting plaice.

As I sit writing this article it's early January. Following several days of hard frost the garden is covered in a light dusting of snow; hardly the sort of weather that is suitable for plaice fishing! But spring will soon be with us, and along with it reports of the first plaice being caught over the usual grounds. I'm looking forward to my first plaice trips of the year, and another opportunity to send my favourite Rauto spoon for another swim along the seabed. ■



“I remain convinced that the most effective plaice rig is little more than a variation of a running ledger that incorporates a spoon”





AERO TECHNIUM MGS 14000 XSD

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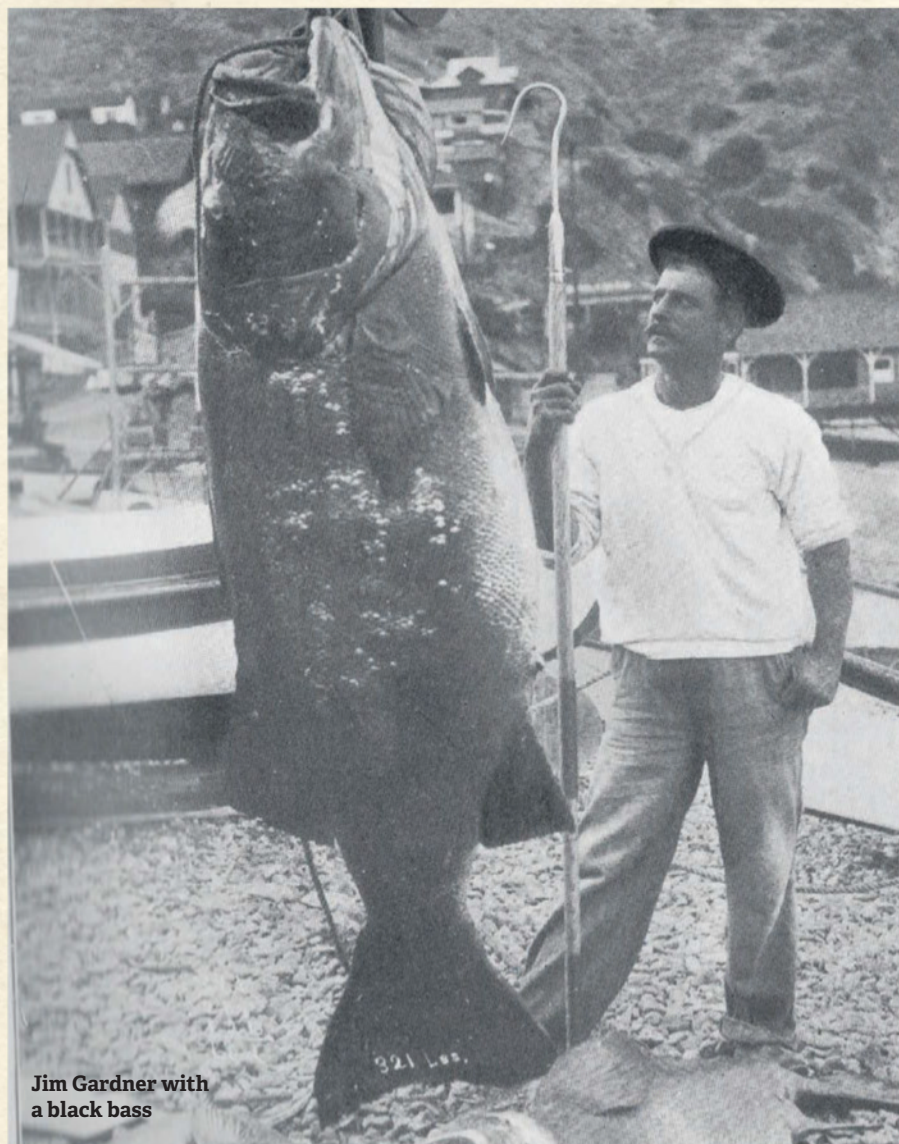
WHERE BIG GAME FISHING BEGAN

Mike Millman tells the story of the advent of big game fishing and of the Brit, James Gardiner, who became the most famous 'gaffer' of the era

JAMES GARDINER was born in Ilminster, Somerset, in April 1864 and when 15-years-old took an apprenticeship with the Merchant Navy. At 21 he decided to travel and arrived in Pasadena in the United States where he drove a six-horse stagecoach. Within a year he had settled in Catalina where he set up a very successful boat and fishing business. Jim, as he was known, established contracts with well-healed anglers and became the personal



Charles Frederick Holder with a 183lb bluefin tuna, the first over 100lb with rod and line



Jim Gardner with a black bass

boatman of the esteemed naturalist Charles Frederick Holder, and was the first "gaffer", as the skippers of the angling boats were called, to secure a 183lb bluefin tuna. Caught by Holder on rod and line the fish made headlines worldwide. It was mounted and can be seen in the island's museum.

In 1915, with the war raging in Europe, Gardiner, back in England, volunteered to fight for his country (despite being 51) and joined the West Somerset Yeomanry. He served in several countries and survived the Gallipoli Campaign before being discharged in 1916 when he moved to live in Bristol where he passed away in 1939 at the age of 75.

The island of Santa Catalina, 22 miles off the coast of California, has the distinction of having the oldest, most prestigious and exclusive fishing club in the whole world. It was the brainchild of eminent naturalist Dr Charles Frederick Holder. There is, however, a great deal more to its history. In the last two decades of the 1800s the waters of Catalina were alive with fish of many species, the most notable being the gigantic black bass that could attain 400lb, bluefin tuna, swordfish and both species of marlin. The fishing was all about handlining, it being considered at the time that no fish over 100lb could be caught with rod and line.

In 1898 Dr Holder, in company with a friend, US Army General Cleary, decided to prove them wrong and went afloat with Catalina's most famous boatman, Jim Gardner, who had run his boat and fishing business for some 25 years. On this occasion it was an 18-footer called Fortuna. Within an hour of leaving the harbour they were anchored where Gardner knew the very large

Colonel Clinton Moorhous with his 251lb Tuna Club Record



Mike Millman - Leaping Tuna Memorial



black bass lived in shelter of the great kelp forest, so much a feature of California's inshore waters. The pair were using rods of greenheart and hickory and both carried Von Hoffe multipliers filled with cuttyhunk line that had a breaking strain of 120lb. What the bait was and how the terminal trace was mounted is unknown but it would not have been complicated.

It was the General's bait that was taken first and so began a give-and-take battle that would last 40 minutes. When the huge bass finally surfaced they could see it had rolled the kelp around itself which had added to the time of the encounter.

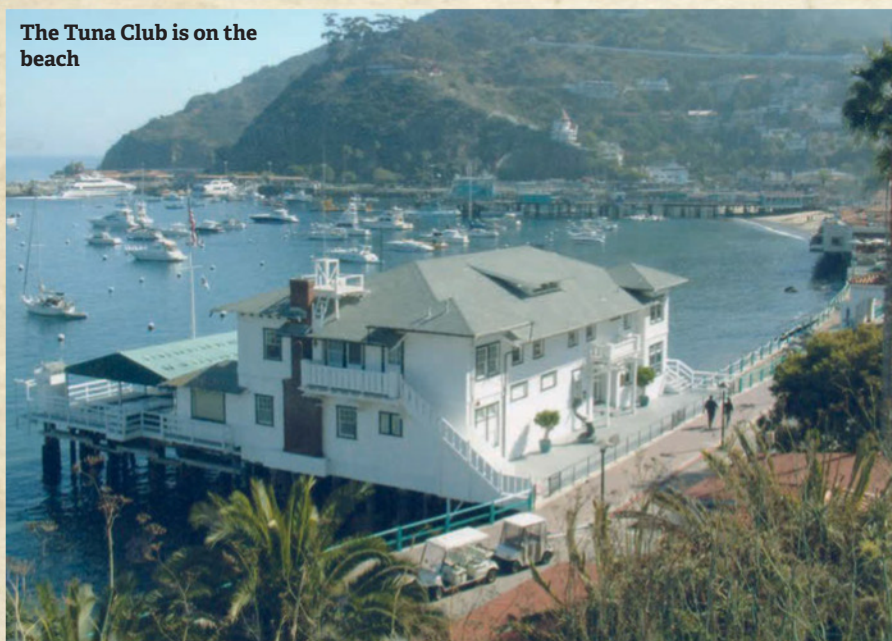
Jim made no mistake securing it and strapped it to the boat's forecastle. They headed back to the island where, before witnesses it was weighed at 231lb so

disproving that such a catch could not be made with a rod. So the impossible had been achieved and news of the success went around the world. Within a matter of weeks other big bass were captured with rod and line; the days of the handlines were truly numbered.

On June 1st that same year Dr Holder went out again with Gardner for a tuna session. It was a calm day and his bait was taken almost immediately. There were several anxious moments and unexpectedly the first gaff split and a second had to be used. Finally, after a four hour battle the fish was brought into the boat by Jim.

It was weighed on Avalon beach with a great number of spectators watching as the gaffer proudly announced, "It's 6ft 4in and 183lbs, sir".

The Tuna Club is on the beach



In 1899 Dr Holder's record was shattered by Colonel Clinton P. Moorhous who had also relocated to Pasadena from the East, his family having distinguished American ancestry (bankers and partners of the Vanderbilt's who were instrumental in developing the Railroad in Chicago). He had fought in the Revolutionary War and was a rugged individual with a reputation in business as a man of unshakeable tenacity. The new record was a 251-pounder and he used the same tackle as Holder and was out with the same boatman, Jim Gardner.

With catches of tuna and swordfish being high Holder decided it was time for an official angling club to be formed and with like-minded individuals and local support The Catalina Tuna Club came into being in 1898.

From the 1890s Catalina's boatmen made a steady and profitable income from the tourists and fisherman and many more stories were told of the big fish and wonderful experiences.

During a visit to England in 1912 the good Doctor gave a talk to members of the British Sea Angling Society on Catalina and the remarkable fishing its waters provided. As a direct result Alfred Aflalo, the BSAS founder, made the long trip to California by ship, train and ferry for a month's stay. Afterwards he wrote of the fishing experiences in his book *Sunset Playground*. Holder, meanwhile, had received honorary membership of the BSAS while Aflalo had the equal honour bestowed upon him by the Catalina Tuna Club. I have a note of these honours in a BSAS Yearbook.

It had a constitution heavily into conservation, as were its rules that were strictly upheld. Membership was restricted to those who had caught an authenticated fish of minimum weight of 100lb. Highly prized were the blue buttons on offer in different categories for qualifying species. The town's Metropole Hotel became the Tuna Club's headquarters and it hosted celebration evenings, meetings and other functions. Among its members were three presidents (Roosevelt and two others), the controversial General George Patton, Winston Churchill, Zane Grey, Stan Laurel, Bing Crosby and many more.

In 1908 The Banning Company, owners of the island, gave the finest plot of land on the beach to the club in appreciation of the vast numbers of anglers and visitors drawn to Avalon through the club's popularity.

In 1914 Zane Grey arrived at 42-years-old and, never one to do anything by half, built a substantial hacienda on the hillside.

1915 was not a good year. The Tuna Club clubhouse burned down and much of the early history and records were lost. Some memorabilia was saved by members and townsfolk who searched and collected items for posterity. The Metropole Hotel suffered the same fate. Both were subsequently re-built. In that same year their club founder Charles Frederick Holder passed away.



Catalina the beautiful



Holder's 183lb tuna is in the museum

Winston Churchill made a visit to enjoy the fishing Catalina waters had to offer in 1929. He captured a 125lb Marlin, stayed for lunch and was aboard the boat out – all within nine hours!

Throughout the years of the Second World War Catalina was taken into the hands of the United States Maritime Commission and thousands of service personnel were trained there. One of the wives was a very young Marilyn Monroe.

In 1948, to celebrate the Tuna Club's 50th birthday, its then President, Arthur N. Macrate, wrote the History of the Tuna Club, which was reprinted in 1972.

In 1998, having access to the extensive archive in the new HQ on the waterfront, historian Michael Farrior wrote a limited-edition book that covers everything about the club, its members, the catches that were made, and a great deal more. The copy I have is numbered 353 from the 1,000 copies that were printed.

Great changes have, of course, taken place over the years – what has not changed though is the entry restriction: members only and invited guests. This rule is strictly upheld.

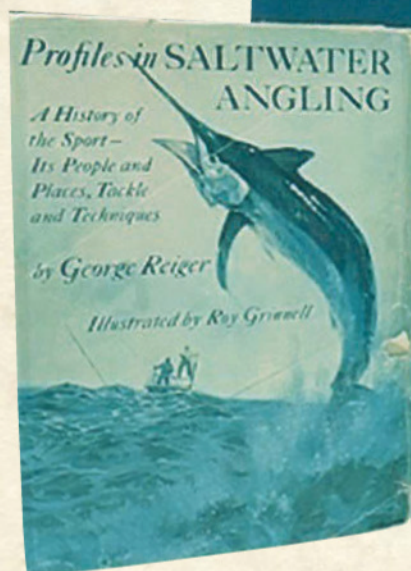
In recent years special visiting days have been set up in association with the museum to allow escorted groups access over a two hour visit. The entry fee being used for good causes locally.

In the 1920s a magnificent Art Deco building was put up on the Avalon shoreline, described as The Casino, but in reality it was a huge ballroom with a wonderfully sprung floor. It hosted many of the big bands of the

era who were transported with the dancers to the island by ferries from the town of San Pedro and Long beach, as visitors still are today.

My last sight of Catalina was at sunset from the fifteenth deck of a cruise ship preparing the leave for San Francisco. It has been said that on very calm nights the sounds of the music can be heard being blown gently across the bay. I thought I heard Vaughn Munroe's Ghost Riders in the Sky – but then I always have been a romantic! ■

Tuna Club Centenary book, Reiger's Profiles and Holder's Big Game at Sea



Tuna Club plaque

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AIR MAIL

BONITOS

Found right around the world, are these mini tuna or giant mackerel? Either way, the sport on light tackle is superb

All around the world many small species of tuna are generically referred to as 'bonito'. However, in reality, very few of these are actually what are scientifically known as bonito. The true bonitos are classified under the genus *Sarda* and are a schooling species that appear, at least to me, as being the missing link between the tuna and mackerel family, *Scombridae*.

Another way of looking at it is that bonito are like small dogtooth tuna. The IGFA currently lists four species of *Sarda*: *Sarda sarda* which are found in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, *Sarda orientalis* in the Indo-Pacific, *Sarda chilensis* of the eastern Pacific, and *Sarda australis* which are found in Australia and New Zealand.

Bonitos are fast, highly predatory fish and can be identified by their striped backs and silvery bellies. Like tuna they are streamlined with a narrow tail base, a forked tail and a row of small finlets behind the dorsal and anal fins. They have very distinct teeth which is the easiest

defining feature. Bonitos closely resemble skipjack tuna, which are one of those species often referred to as being bonito. However, those needle-sharp teeth are the give-away.

The IGFA All-Tackle records are as follows: Atlantic bonito, 18lb 4oz, caught in The Azores; Australian bonito, 20lb 11oz, caught off Montague Island; Pacific bonito, 21lb 5oz, caught off the coast of California and the Indo-Pacific or striped bonito, 23lb 8oz, caught in The Seychelles. This might all sound very confusing but at end of the day unless you are specifically looking for records, as far as most anglers are concerned, a bonito is a bonito, which is a small tuna with teeth!

Given an average size of between 5-10lb bonito are great sport when hooked on light to medium weight spinning tackle which gives these perfectly streamlined fish the opportunity to demonstrate just how powerful, relative to their size, they are. Unfortunately, a lot of bonito caught by anglers are hooked as a bycatch when fishing for other species using much heavier tackle.



Bonito are great sport on light tackle



The teeth are the identifying feature

Somewhere between a mackerel and a tuna



LOCATING BONITO

As when targeting any pelagic species location is the key to success. Shoals of fish are often located in the vicinity of reefs or offshore banks, often very close to shore and even occasionally in coloured water. Shoals of surface feeding bonito can often be spotted by locating flocks of birds grabbing baitfish that they have pushed to the surface. A lot of the bonito I have seen have been caught when working bait balls being attacked by a range of different species.

Bonito can be caught on many, if not any, types of lures, but given their size it's often the smaller lures that are the most effective. Various coloured jet heads and squids are very effective if trolling, as are diving lures. Casting small metal jigs into the vicinity of shoaling fish can be extremely effective, especially if you allow the lure to sink a little and work it through the water column. Both slow pitch and high-speed jigging are effective techniques for catching them too.

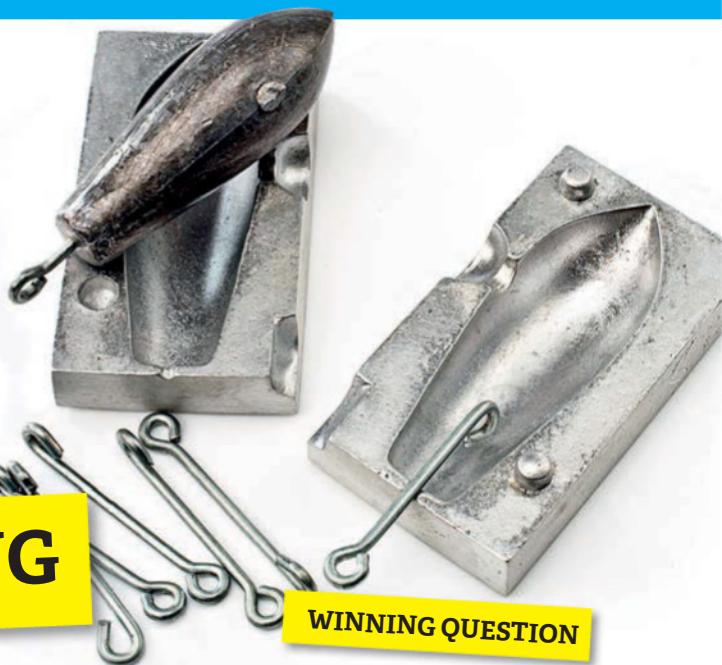
An occasional bonito can and often does turn up anywhere within the range of the four different species. I have seen an occasional fish in Oman, Kenya, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and one or two other locations. However, the Pacific coast of Costa Rica and Panama have been particularly productive, though here they are mostly referred to as white tuna. I have been told that bonito are often caught fishing around the Canary Islands, both afloat and from the shore, mostly by anglers using spinning tackle and metal jigs. ■

SEA SCHOOL

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Q & A

SHORE ANGLING



WINNING QUESTION

ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address



IAN BOWELL

Ian is the vice chairman of the Sea Anglers Match Federation and our shore fishing expert.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



DAVID MITCHELL

David has worked on sea angling conservation and policy for the past 13 years at both UK and European level.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.



BEN BASSETT

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

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By asking a question you are giving us permission to use your name and where you live in all versions and platforms of this magazine.

Q I was given some old lead moulds by a friend and am considering using them to make my own lead weights for sea fishing. I've got some scrap lead to use. Is there anything I should know, or be aware of, before I get started? Grant Warren, Cheshire

IB says: Lead is a controlled substance when used in the workplace, as defined by Health and Safety Executive, due to the health risk it poses to those who may be exposed to it. The same risks are present whether you are mass producing or making lead weights for your personal use. I would strongly recommend a good read about what control measures you should put in place, even when making a few leads for personal use.

The website www.hse.gov.uk/lead will give you a good start. No lead weight is worth risking your or someone else's health for, so if in doubt, take your scrap lead to an authorised dealer and invest the money in your local tackle shop.

The range of leads on the market is vast and increasing all the time as we learn more about alternative fishing tactics. Depending on where you fish and what type of fishing you do, you'll likely need a range of moulds to accommodate your needs, which can then work out quite expensive as mould design is a time consuming and skilled job; they don't come cheap. Whilst I have tried to make a few of my own in my time, the amount of effort required - protective masks, eye shields, ventilation, purchase of a suitable stove, gas cylinders, preparation of moulds and wire - not to mention what could go wrong, means it just isn't worth the effort. I find I can source just about anything I need from the UK suppliers.

Q I've seen halibut flavoured ground bait for carp fishing. It got me wondering: could you use fish flavoured ground bait when beach fishing and if so, how?

Ian Daniels, Hampshire

IB says: Anglers are always looking for an edge, particularly among match anglers, when scent is such a vital factor to lure those fish to your hook rather than your competitor's. Going back some years we had the bait safe, which allowed soft, large baits, which were difficult to cast and prone to bait 'wobble', to be cast in a protective capsule, adding a ground bait was an option. The modern alternative is 'the device', manufactured by a couple of UK suppliers and works well. Anglers tend to use them for long-range fishing with a big bait such as whole squid, Bluey for rays, congers or tope. These require the bait to be held firmly in the capsule. Packing it with odd bits of fish, squid or worm provides an additional scent trail for the fish to home in on. For

smaller species, such as flounder or eels, chopped up worm can be used in a swim-feeder. However, strong tides and deep water can adversely affect the swim feeder, causing it to move too quickly along the seabed. When our mid and surface water fish come into play, ground baiting has been used to a degree of success: chumming to keep a shoal of scad on your peg is a regular Chesil Beach match tactic. However lugging kilos of ground bait on the shingle puts most people off! I've seen anglers raking in a ground bait into the beach at low tide, or burying a frozen block of bait in front on them, on the premise of attracting fish to them as the tide gently floods over the spot. It certainly helps to use old bait, frozen in small ice-cream tubs which can easily be squeezed out

Rapala**Sufix**

Q I like using braid because of the sensitivity and bite detection, but I also like fishing with multipliers. My friends tell me I would be mad to cast a multiplier loaded with braid because of the birds' nests. Is this true and is there anything I can do to help prevent this?

Shayne Dunlop, Lincolnshire

IB says: If I'm honest I'm not the biggest fan of braid as my go-to line for my everyday sea angling. Yes, it has its uses, such as in deep water or strong tidal runs. Braid can be used effectively, particularly from a boat, when casting is not involved. In fact, nothing else will do. Lure fishing is another good use of braid as it helps to put more action into the lure. On the beach or pier side of things, the development of fixed spool reels and continental style rods (up to 5m) has seen some anglers switch from the more traditional beach caster to the Conti-fixed spool set up, along with braid, with the aim of improving their distance when casting from the beach. Braid, with absolutely no stretch, will certainly load a rod to aid casting but I don't believe it improves the all-round fishing experience when it comes to landing a fish.

There are lots of modern monofilament lines, some fluoro coated, which are low diameter and high strength and which can equally cast a long way with just a well-timed, overhead cast. During match fishing I seldom reel in on a bite.

Far more often I reel in to time depending how fast the fishing is. In fact, seeing a bite can sometimes be counterproductive as fish may attack the bait giving an indication many times before taking the hook; you can be too quick, flatfish and rays being a prime example.

Cost comparison, there's not too much in it; yes braid can last a fair time, so there might be a financial argument there. Now comes the but! Braid needs a rod with some give in it, particularly when landing a decent fish. You must be careful if you are casting braid: getting it caught around your finger or thumb could do you some serious damage! Any tangles, even the simplest of bird's nests, are very difficult to deal with and likely result in you needing to cut it out, which may ruin the whole spool, making it an expensive mistake.

Far more expensive could be the damage braid can do to your rod rings if they are not designed with braid in mind. In short, braid has its uses, but in my opinion not for your everyday angling. Stick to mono is my advice.

in a frozen lump. One tactic I did find effective was ground baiting with all your old and waste bait after re-baiting your rig. I was fishing a sea wall mark and as I trimmed my bait I dropped the small pieces or worm and fish down the wall, then once the tide has covered the spot, gently lowering my rig into the same area. An angler, especially a match angler, should always be thinking, trying

things as it might just work. No tactic will work on all occasions but it's always worth experimenting. The key element is to know when to do or not to do it; this comes with experience – nothing ventured, nothing gained. One word of warning: some competitions do not allow the use of additives or ground baiting, so always check the rules if you're fishing a match.



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SEA SCHOOL

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Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

WINNING QUESTION

Q I have a multiplier reel which I bought a while ago pre-loaded with mono. I am now thinking of changing over to braid. What would be the correct way of doing this to avoid any pitfalls? Which would be the best knots to use and what would be best length for the mono leader for general fishing, lures or bait?

IAN FLEMING, DORSET

DL says: It is important to ensure the spool is correctly filled, which will help the reel's overall performance providing maximum retrieve and clutch efficiency. Braid is ultra-thin and usually sold in 200-300m spools, so you'll need to load it on top of monofilament to fill the spool. 'Top shotting', as this is known, also helps cushion the spool from excessive pressure and prevents the braid slipping around the spool giving the impression the clutch is loose. Filling the spool correctly is at first trial and error. Not knowing what reel you have, I suggest you remove about half of the monofilament, then load the braid on top of this. There are a lot of good knots you can use to join braid to monofilament, I use a standard shock leader knot with a few extra wraps of braid. As a rule of thumb, a 20ft leader at the working end of the braid is about right for most UK boat fishing situations.



Q What is the purpose of the small sail I occasionally see rigged at the aft end of fishing boats?

BURT SMITH, SUFFOLK

DL says: The sail you are referring to is known as a Mizzen sail. It serves various functions including helping to keep the bow of the boat heading into the wind at anchor. A Mizzen also assists the skipper control the angle of drift, important when fishing a wreck or reef.



Q Is it necessary to remove every piece of shell when using peeler crab?

TOM HARRIS, THE WIRRAL

DL says: Unless I am using small hooks for species such as flatfish, when I want to ensure absolutely perfect bait presentation and do not want the fine hook point to become masked by the bait, I have never bothered to remove every piece of shell. For species such as smoothhounds, bass and cod I generally just remove the top carapace along with the other larger sections, then lash it on a hook.

Q I have recently overcome my seasickness phobia and have started to boat fish. I have a boat competition in the next few months with my club and want to be prepared. I have made several attempts to emulate the rigs I see online but most have resulted in a tangled mess. The species range from smoothhounds to mini species. What are the simplest go-to rigs to give me a chance of success?

WILLIAM JOHNSON, NORTH WALES

DL says: A running leger rig, or slight variations of it, will cover most boat fishing scenarios you'll encounter here in the UK. Slide a boom onto the main line or leader, tie a swivel to the end of this line, then tie or clip a 3-4ft hook length to the other end of the swivel. Tie a suitable sized hook to the end of the hook length, attach a lead and that's it! You'll find lots of how-to videos online.



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Q It is not always possible to catch mackerel where I fish and buying bait only adds to the already high cost of a charter trip. Can you use other types of fish for bait?

GORDON MCINTYRE, KENT

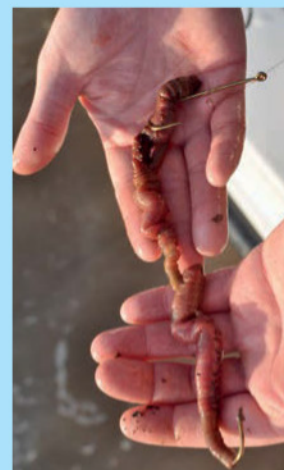
DL says: In theory you can use any type of fish for bait, obviously subject to size restrictions. Whiting, pouting, garfish, scad and poor cod all make excellent baits for rays, cod, conger, bass, huss, dogfish and many other species. Fished either whole or filleted, either on their own or as a cocktail. You will be surprised at just how effective they are.



Q Are blow lug as effective a bait when used afloat as black lug are? I never seem to catch much when using them.

CORMACK MULLIGAN, COUNTY CORK

DL says: Good quality freshly dug blow lug are a great bait, but they are not nearly as tough and durable as blacks. When it is beneficial to create an effective scent trail – when fishing for cod, for example – black lug remain effective for 15-20 minutes or more, whereas blow lug get washed out much quicker. Personally, I'd always choose black lug over blow, and when only blow lug are available I present them as a cocktail with another bait such as squid or shellfish.



Q&A

LURE FISHING

WINNING QUESTION

Q From the pictures in yours and other magazines it seems like a disproportionate number of large bass are caught by children and young anglers. Could this mean that many specimens spend a lot of time close in as they may fall prey to shorter casts?

CRAIG ELLIS, WREXHAM

HG says: I think that this has a lot to do with Sea Angler doing all they can to promote the future of fishing by featuring photographs of younger anglers as much as they can. However, you have raised a valuable point. There is a lot of talk about long-casting rods and lures in the bass fishing world, but do we really need them when so many of the bigger bass are caught close in?

It is never a bad thing having the ability to cover a lot of water in your armoury. We don't need to be blasting our lures to the horizon all the time, but now factor in a decent bit of wind blowing right at you and already you can't fish as much water as you could before. Having the right equipment to counteract wind and waves can certainly help at times. But it isn't everything.

Bass is a species which is very adept at coming in very close to shore to hunt for food. As much as a bass of a lifetime could well be caught almost off the end of your rod tip, I happen to believe that a lot of it comes down to where you are fishing and what type of ground it is. A good run of ebb current might happen to be fairly close to shore where you are fishing in an estuary, but what about the next angler who needs to put some distance on a lure to get to the main bit of flow? How about big reef systems where you can cover a huge amount of water if you have got the right lures? It is tempting to blast lures out all the time, but I would urge

you to also think about accuracy and putting lures into very specific areas – which might not be very far out. My biggest bass was not caught at range, but where I caught it there is almost nothing worth fishing the further out you go. Hence, I was concentrating on specific features rather than distance. Think about where you are fishing and where potential bass might be. I am convinced bass follow and refuse our lures far more than we realise. I have watched bass chasing and refusing



surface lures from way out. I don't obsess about catching bass at range at all, but when possible, I do like having the tools at my disposal to fish a lot of water effectively.

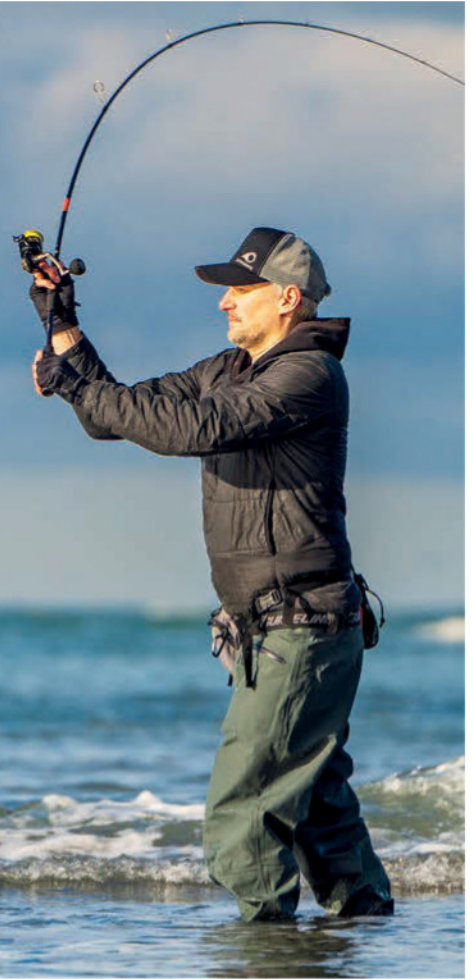


Q How much braid do you actually need on a spinning reel for bass fishing?

BRADLEY MCMASTER, SOMERSET

HG says: Go looking for a spool of braid from a tackle shop and most likely it's going to be a 150m or 150yd spool. I have no idea how this figure was arrived at because I see it all over the world on spools of braid, but I happen to think it's really useful. This much braid is plenty for even the longest caster of long-casting bass lures out there. Even if you do hook a big bass at maximum range there is no way the fish will take the rest of your line if you set your drag properly. Those anglers who say that a decent bass ripped 40yds of braid off them simply are not setting their drags tight enough.

I also like the 150m figure because there will naturally be some new braid which never gets to see the light of day, unless that is you get a particularly bad wind knot and have to cut it right back. If your mainline has been behaving then by all means reverse your braid for a new season and carry on using it. I have got a couple of spinning reels here with the amazing Sufix 131 braid on which has been working effectively now for about three or four years. I have reversed the 150m lengths a couple of times now and I see no reason for buying new braid because it keeps working so well.



Q What do you mean when you talk about swell periods?

MARTIN WHYTE, CARMARTHENSHIRE

HG says: If you look at the swell or wave forecasts on apps such as Magic Seaweed or Surfline, you will see a figure which is called the swell period. It will be quoted in seconds, and what it basically means is the number of seconds between the waves which are forecast to hit the coast.

Let's think about a choppy sea which is hitting your local coastline, most likely with an onshore wind as well. The sea looks messy and without shape or uniformity, and if you were to try and count the seconds between each wave you might be around say four to six seconds. This is what I call a "short sea", and I really like this for open coast bass fishing from both rocks and beaches. There might not actually be very much swell at all and the broken waves are mostly generated by the onshore wind. I prefer this shape of sea.

Now take a look at when the surfers flock down to a beach and look carefully at the shape of the waves. Surfers want clean, uniform waves which are rolling



into the shore and ideally held up a bit by an offshore wind which helps to keep the face of the wave from collapsing for as long as possible. Now count the seconds between the waves and it could be up to as much as 12 seconds. This is

a longer swell period where the waves can be much larger and potentially more dangerous when fishing open coast rock marks because these waves are generated purely by swell which rises and falls quite alarmingly at times.

Q&A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

Q Is LRF doing any harm to the small fish population? Is it a good thing to target them?

GREG MATTHEWS, DUBLIN

BB says: Interesting question, although I think the answer is quite straightforward: smaller species, particularly the micro species, are short lived and prolific breeders. The gobies are a great example of this, with sand and common gobies rarely living longer than a year. These are species that have to breed in great numbers because they are food for almost everything, so are very resilient to angling pressure. Also, LRF is almost entirely catch and release, with minimal mortality if done correctly. I would suspect, if there was any in-depth study, that LRF is making almost zero difference to the population and, if anything, is raising awareness of species and distributions that most aren't aware of.



Q I have seen a few people using scented lures like Isome on the back hook of metals, is this worth doing?

TOM BARON, DEVON

BB says: Although this may not impress the purists, tipping your metal lures with Isome or Gulp is very effective. I especially like to use it during difficult sessions in winter, as it often triggers bites when other techniques don't. My theory is that it looks like a fish has stolen some food or is too busy feeding to notice another predator. It could even be simply the flash and vibration from the metal trigger the feeding response. What the scented addition does do is give you a lot more confidence to pause the lure and let the bites develop. Fish them low 'n' slow, you will catch a surprising amount of fish.



Q I'm still relatively new to the LRF scene and finding my feet. Do you think that during the year from spring to winter anglers should adapt their techniques to help increase their chances of catching fish? I wonder if most species are more active with warmer water temperatures and then slow down and are not as active during the colder months?

IAN BELLERBY, COUNTY DOWN

BB says: Water temperature can make a huge difference and it's easy to forget that the water temperature lags behind the air temperature. In January the sea is still surprisingly warm while in April and June the weather may be warm but the water is still relatively cold. This can mean we often fish too aggressively in the spring when we actually should be slowing down. A fixed, slow approach is better when the water is cold, even if the air temperature says different, and we should use more active techniques as the sea warms from July to January, even in the colder months.



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BIG REELS

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Follow this advice and avoid the casting pitfalls that await when you step up to using bigger reels for rough ground work



Most of us prefer small CT multipliers because they're easy to use, cast effortlessly far and have sufficient speed and strength for most open beach fishing. Heavy, dirty work is another matter because stepping up to a big reel brings a crop of handling issues that can prove impossible to deal with.

It helps to understand the background forces that make smooth control and decent distances more demanding. It's a whole new world for anyone brought up on 6500 reels. Even modestly big reels such as the Daiwa SL30SH, which holds 300yds of 20lb mono, produce a slightly odd feeling when you let fly with a cast. Whereas a 6500's response is instant when your thumb lifts, a chunky reel has a slight delay, as if the spool is "sticky". This is inertia at work, and it is followed by a surge mid-way through the cast when the spool acts as a heavy flywheel and spits off too much line, too quickly. Backlash time!

A slow actioned rod, plenty of lead, and a flowing casting style help a lot.

A conservative line level on the spool doesn't cure the release stickiness but it will reduce over-throw in the middle of the cast. Thicker line induces less surge because the spool level falls more rapidly as the rig flies, thus minimising over-throw. For this reason alone it's wise to avoid thin monofilaments and braids unless the line level is kept well down. Dial in plenty of magnet power, shove in big blocks, use thick oil in the bearings, and the outfit should stay under control.

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Be sceptical of tales of massive fishing ranges achieved with heavy gear, though in the right hands big reels can produce spectacular results. Decades ago I watched a South African tournament caster do nearly 200yds with a massive Penn Mariner boat reel filled with 60lb line, using a 15ft rod and 8oz of lead. He also happened to be a 6ft 8in Springbok rugby forward! We mortals have to be realistic, especially with chunky baits added to the equation. Slippery beaches and rocks don't help either. In practical terms 100m is excellent for most of us, and 75m nothing to be ashamed of.

What if you need to fish heavy but just don't get on with multiplier reels of any flavour? The best of modern fixed spools can cope and a few actually excel with big loads and rough ground. The larger Penn Spinfishers are one example, and I mention them specifically because I've seen what a brutal beating they survive on US bluefish charter boats where they're often loaded with 50lb line and used as winches.

Speaking of winches, a fixed spool enthusiast could go Stone Age and root out an Alvey side-caster. Personally, I love them - it's an acquired taste though, like Marmite. Made in Australia, they remain hard to beat for really heavy work, including sharks. They are a simple drum reel like our old Scarboroughs but literally with a twist: the spool swivels through 90 degrees to cast like a fixed spool. Glorious fun. ■

Follow all the latest news, catches and photos from Century on facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing

READER OFFER

READER OFFER

SAVE ON THIS GREAT BEACH FISHING SET-UP

**YOU PAY
ONLY £99**

This month Sea Angler is offering readers the chance to tackle up for spring with the choice of either a three-piece Mitchell Suprema 3.0 Surf Master 420 100g (RRP £154.99) or 250g rod (£174.99) paired with a Mitchell Bluewater R Reel. In addition you'll get a Fisheagle rig wallet with 10 bait rigs, all for the astounding price of just £99.00 (RRP £229.99!).

The Surf Master has high modulus carbon blank which combines the right flexibility and strength with unrivalled tip sensitivity. The diameter of the rod is very thin, which makes the Surf Master slim and very reactive. Mitchell's SensiTip technology gives this rod a very sensitive tip, able to transfer even the most cautious bites. Choose between the 100g (3.5oz) or 250g (8oz) versions of these great rods.

The Mitchell Blue Water R Reel offers fantastic quality and performance at an excellent price point. Made from an extra strong polymeric body material, this provides the reel with added durability and strength for use in saltwater environments. The reel has one stainless steel bearing with a smooth and powerful felt washer drag system.

The bail arm is solid and the handle has a graphite construction for additional strength. It features an ergonomic rubber knob for comfort and the reel is pre-loaded with high quality, clear mono so it is ready to go as soon as you've got it!

The set-up comes with a superb selection of bait rigs in a velcro wallet to keep them safe and tidy. Selected specifically to offer a proven set of fish catchers the selection includes two each of some of the top bait rigs packed in individual zip-sealed plastic wallets.



THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER

1. **LOG ON** to the link gac.fishing/00200A
2. **CALL** 0141 212 8880 and quote 00200A
3. **BY POST** Glasgow Angling Centre, Unit 1, 29 Saracen ST, Glasgow G22 5HT, quote 00200A

**RELY ON
SEA ANGLER
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EVERY ISSUE**

FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops

SAKUMA FLATTIE SPOONS

These are available in either 15g or 25g, in either a silver chrome or gold finish. Sakuma Flattie Spoons are nicely finished with fluorescent coloured edging strips, eyes and the necessary split rings and swivels for trace attachment. As with the classic Rauto spoons Sakuma spoons are designed to disturb sand and mud as they cover the seabed, thus attracting fish to your bait. Available from all Sakuma tackle retailers.

- 15g - £2.91
- 25g - £3.21
- www.sakuma.co.uk



SCHÖFFEL THURSO DOWN JACKET

The Thurso Down Jacket is light, warm and robust. Made from 100 per cent nylon and insulated with ethically sourced down, this jacket is perfect for wear all year round. Windproof and water repellent, the Thurso Down Jacket's thermal conductive fibre regulates body temperature, and the tailored fit provides maximum comfort and luxurious style. The jacket is exceptionally lightweight and machine washable. Versatile and stylish, this jacket is finished with Schöffel's signature branding, and has contrast zips for a premium look ideal for the country or town.

FEATURES

- Contrast lining
- 800 fill power, ethically sourced down filling (90 per cent down, 10 per cent feathers)
- Tailored fit
- One-way YYK front zip
- Featuring Schöffel branding
- Schöffel branded fabric pip
- Thermal conductive fibre to regulate body temperature
- Extremely lightweight
- Contrast zips and logo
- Machine washable

- RRP £269.95
- www.fairfaxandfavor.com

SAKUMA AIR PUMP

A portable, battery-operated air pump is a useful if not essential piece of equipment for both boat and shore anglers planning on fishing livebaits. Even the smallest pumps are ideal for keeping a supply of sandeels, prawns, and even larger species such as mackerel, alive and in a healthy condition throughout the duration of a day's fishing. The new Sakuma air pump is designed for exactly this sort of application, for which it is perfect.

Powered by two 1.5v D type batteries (not supplied) the pump will run for up to 48 hours. This two-speed pump is neat, compact and, most importantly, water resistant. It features a handy metal clip, ideal to secure the pump to the side of a bait bucket. Aside from the batteries the pump includes everything you need, including an air line and aeration stone. Available from all Sakuma tackle retailers

- RRP £12.38
- www.sakuma.co.uk



SHIMANO MIRAVEL

The new Miravel is the lowest priced model in the popular Magnumlite Series. The reduced overall weight, combined with lightweight rotational feel is perfect for anglers wanting advanced performance combined with excellent affordability. The Miravel features CI4+ composite throughout its construction, and a G-FREE Body that is remarkably light and well balanced, even in the larger sizes. And like all Magnumlite reels, the lightness of rotation makes it the perfect reel for advanced lure fishing, especially when combined with the latest lightweight rods.

FEATURES

- A wide range of models: 1000-5000 size
- Extra fast gear options to give you extra speed when required
- Water resistant front drag
- HAGANE GEAR, X-SHIP combination enhanced with Silent Drive
- RRP from £109
- SHIMANO Fishing | EN (shimano-eu.com)



GARMIN FUSION APOLLO MARINE HIDEAWAY STEREO

Garmin has launched its new Fusion Apollo stereo. Designed to provide world-class audio entertainment, the Apollo WB675 helps maximise dash space aboard your boat with its compact design. It can be placed inside the helm console, a glovebox

or mounted completely out of sight giving you more space on the dash. Compatible with Apple AirPlay® 2, the WB675 has the ability to stream lossless audio.

With four separate audio zones you'll receive superior sound in more areas onboard. Fully customisable, you can take full control of the audio system with an integrated Fusion wired remote, compatible Garmin MFDs or marine-specific wearables.

- RRP £519.99
- www.garmin.com



BOAT STORE

A guide to new products for anglers going afloat

THE SEA ANGLING CLASSIC – JUNE 15-17TH 2023

As many of you may remember, the first Sea Angling Classic took place in June 2022. It was a success attracting 189 anglers from across the UK, fishing in 59 private boats. The fishing around the Solent was excellent with a lot of big fish out of the 3000 which were caught. The 2022 winners were the Smart Fish team skippered by Will Parkinson.

As a result, everyone in the sea angling world is now looking forward to the 2023 event and the organisers, Angling Spirit, have announced a slightly altered competition format and raft of high-profile sponsors.

THE FORMAT

Based at Gunwharf Quay, the fishing area will remain the same around the Solent and the target species will be, as last year, smoothhound, tope, bass, bream and rays. The event is a catch-photograph and release competition using the specially designed event app with a live leaderboard. The winner will be the boat with a combined length of the three longest of each species on both days. Each boat is allowed a maximum of four rods and a minimum of two anglers – entry is £250 per angler. There is also a charter boat competition which takes place on Thursday 15th June.

PRIZES

The top prize for 2023 will be an amazing, fully equipped Extreme 745 Gameking and trailer. The prize boat will be powered by a 300hp V6 Yamaha outboard engine, complete with Yamaha Joystick Helm Master™ EX control. Lowrance will be providing their ultimate fishing system. The captain of the winning boat also wins a trip to New Zealand to see the amazing build quality of the boat. Prizes go from 1st to 20th place with categories for biggest of each of the five species, best placed female angler, best placed junior and best placed boat under 6.7m.

Ross Honey, the event founder, said "Extreme Boats EU, who are providing the prize boat for the Sea Angling Classic 2023, has signed an exclusive



agreement with Yamaha. It's great that so many of the activities and initiatives linked to the Sea Angling Classic's best practice catch photo release angling event, such as respect for the environment and children's education, directly mirror those of Yamaha."

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP

The event will culminate with a celebration party night on Saturday 17th June at Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth, followed by the full prize giving on Sunday 18th June. All competing anglers will need to complete a shoreline clean up as part of their condition of entry.

We covered the 2022 event in detail, and it was certainly a really exciting and well organised event with an opening parade through Portsmouth and a prize giving ceremony on the Sunday – this razzamatazz will be repeated at this year's event.

Both Sea Angler and Saltwater Boat Angling are supporting the event and will be entering elite fishing teams in specially kitted out boats. We all really looking forward to this year's "Classic" and anticipate an even more competitive field – so if you haven't booked your boat in yet then what are you waiting for!

You can register online at: www.seaanglingclassic.com ■



**See us at Boat Life 2023
Birmingham NEC
16th to 19th February 2023**

COX & RAWLE

For stockists visit www.coxandrawle.com

Rodman VENTURA OUTBOARD SERIES

NEW



VENTURA 690CC



VENTURA 790CC

The new outboard powered Ventura range from Rodman offers the utmost quality and sea keeping in boats from 6-8 metres, featuring models with centre console, open forward cabin and hard top.



RBS Marine Ltd, Exclusive dealers for the UK, Ireland and Channel Islands
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01243 512101 info@rbsmarine.com rbsmarine.com



APRIL

This month's best tides and tactics for spring shore thornbacks and boat spurdogs

SHORE

THORNBACK RAY

Thornbacks are back inshore in good numbers by April in most areas, but the tides you fish are always critical for consistent success.

TIDE TALK

During smaller neap tides, thornbacks tend to have a more sedentary lifestyle favouring hunkering up in hollows and depressions over sand and mud, only moving short distances during the peak flow of tide.

This limits their likely access onto shallower sand or mixed rough ground shore venues. It's the bigger tides that see them move out of their hidey holes and using the faster flowing water to carry them further afield. Look to the tides falling between the 4th and the 11th, then from the 17th to the 24th April for peak catches.

Thornbacks generally feed best from the second to the fourth hour of the flooding tide when the flow is at its greatest. Either side of low water they remain static, waiting for the first real push of the tide before they move. It's different either side of high-water slack as the rays realise they can get caught out in shallow water, so as soon as the flood tide starts to ease, expect bites to drop away as the fish head for deeper water. Generally, ebbing tides are not normally good for rays, but you can pick the odd one up if you are able to get longer casts away to intercept them as they move out of the shallower water back into deeper water beyond the mean low tide line.

Try to choose tides that start to flood in



darkness. These nearly always provide the best fishing. Also, thornbacks often swim in small groups of two to five fish, usually a female and several attendant males, so get one ray and you can expect another.

TACTICS

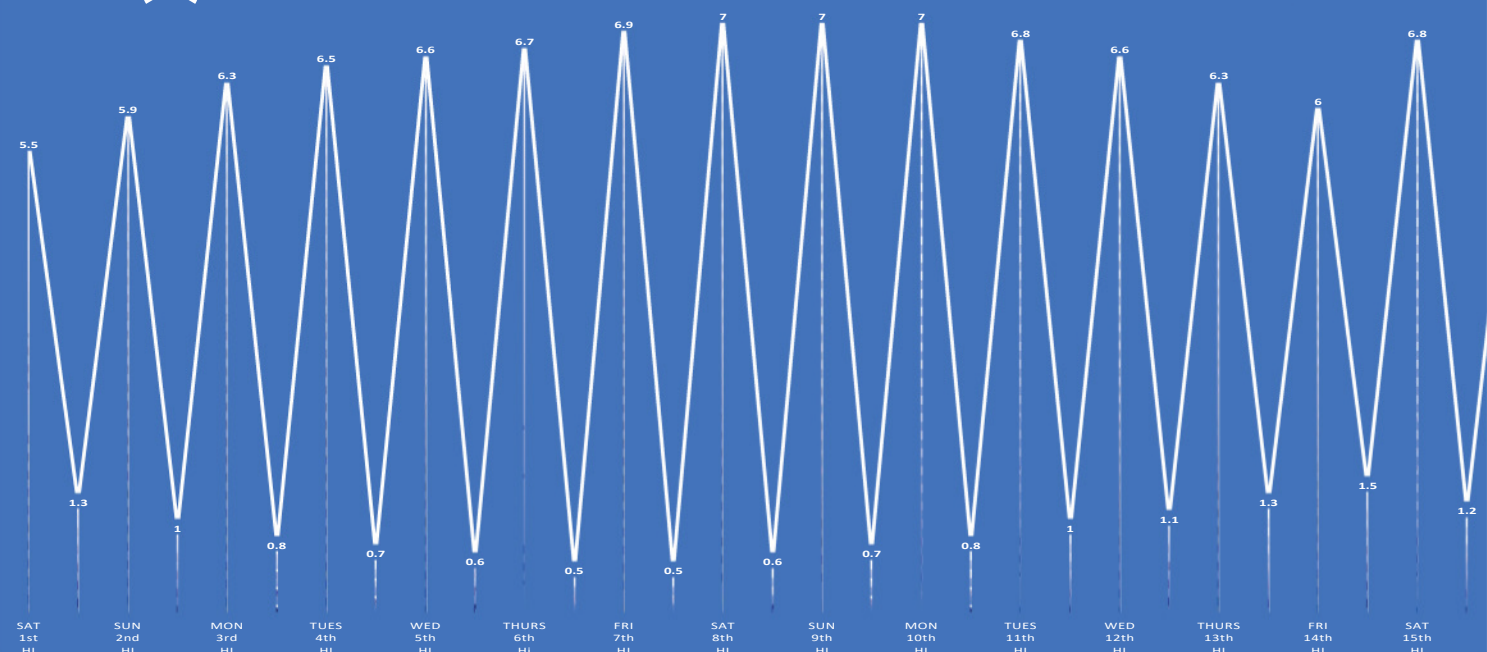
Longer casts are usually needed, so choose either a 12 to 14ft 4-6oz beachcaster with a multiplier reel loaded with 18lb main line and a 60lb shock leader. Alternatively, an 8000 fixed spool reel loaded with 30lb braid and an 80lb braid shock leader.

Top rig is a pulley rig made from 60lb mono with a 40lb fluorocarbon hook length ending in a single 4/0 Viking pattern hook. Thornbacks take mackerel, herring, bluey and squid baits, being especially partial to a fish/squid cocktail.

HOTSPOTS

Holderness Coast, the Kent coast, both sides of the Bristol Channel east of a line drawn

HEIGHT (M)



roughly between Weston-Super-Mare and Swansea, the south coast of Anglesey, The Mersey Estuary and the west coast sea lochs in Scotland.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Bull huss, spotted ray, conger.

BOAT

SPURDOG

Spurdog are found in the English Channel but are mainly a west coast species forming huge shoals with multiple catches on the cards. Double figure spurs are also relatively common though the average size is 4lb to 6lb.



TIDE TALK

Being a mainly offshore deep-water fish, the favoured tides are the smaller neaps and this month they fall between the 12th and the 16th, also the 25th April to the 1st May. They are targeted by drift fishing so the smaller tides, with their reduced tidal flow, means the drift is more likely to be slower, keeping you in contact with the shoal for longer. Ideal conditions are wind against the tide which slows the overall drift speed of the boat.

The shoals of spurdog constantly move up and down in the water column as the tide changes. Over slack water they will rise higher in the water to intercept bait fish, which at this time of year is typically herring. As the tide flow increases, expect them to drop deeper and deeper. During the middle hours of the tide when the tidal flow is strongest, and this applies especially to the middle-sized neap tides with their stronger tidal flow, they can be tight to the seabed and no more than 15ft above the seabed.

Spurdog are more active in lower light levels, so the best days are overcast with a low cloud base when light levels entering the

water column are minimal. Tides that flood early morning, or mid-afternoon are ideal as again light levels are reduced at this time.

TACTICS

A 20/30lb boat rod with a multiplier reel holding 300yds of 30lb braid and mono backing is ideal. Add a 40lb fluorocarbon leader to act as a rubbing trace against the rough bodies of the spurs.

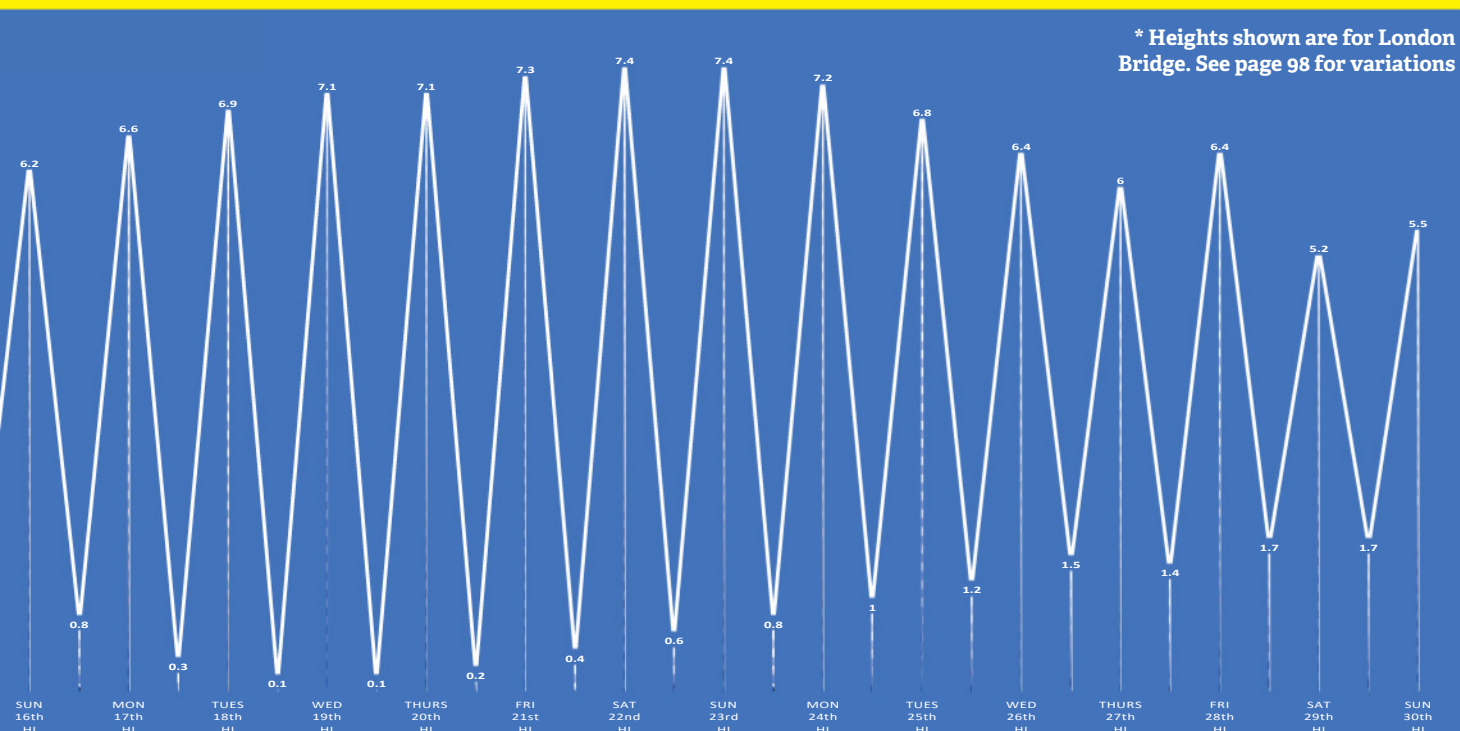
White cod feathers or pink, red, black or lumo plastic muppet rigs work best, baiting the hooks with mackerel, herring or squid. Jig the baits up and down in the water column until you find the fish. Spurs have sharp teeth, so use short hook lengths made from 100lb fluorocarbon or 50lb wire.

HOTSPOTS

Devon and Cornish coast, outer Bristol Channel ports, North Wales ports, marks off the Isle of Man, the west coast of Scotland and the western facing Scottish sea lochs. Also, the east coast of Ireland off Wicklow, Cork, Kerry, Mayo and Donegal coast, and off Northern Ireland.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Fishing tight to the seabed, tope, cod, ling, coalfish and pollack. Higher in the water column coalfish and pollack.





Rodman is one of the boat brands which is generally regarded by boat anglers as one for big cruising boats used for big game fishing. I know quite a few charter skippers and wealthier boat owners who own a Rodman, and they are very comfortable, good looking and well equipped boats – I’ve always rather wanted one. However, in terms of day angling for recreational boat owners they’re either too large or too expensive.

So, it’s good news that Rodman has launched a new range of models: their Ventura line of boats. There are three: 690, 790 and 890 (7m, 8m and 9m models). In the UK these boats are distributed by RBS Marine – based in Chichester – and we were fortunate enough to be invited down to “road” test one of the new models. The day we chose was near perfect and we had the vast area of Chichester Harbour to test the boat.

BASIC DESIGN

The boat we tested was the 690, which is a centre console open boat. First impressions were very positive. It’s a roomy craft with plenty of free board and is well laid out. There is comfortable walk-around space with the console centred – allowing for deck space fore and aft. In addition, there are running/diving boards on the back with



optional platforms flanking the engine. Access is very straightforward and would suit all users – easy step-on ability from pontoons using the stern access door. Being an open boat there is no cabin but there is the ability to fit a top over the console area and a Bimini (canopy) over the front and stern.

LOOK AND FEEL

They are a stylish looking boat of a design which is more and more popular with anglers, particularly bass and other lure anglers. It has sleek lines and is certainly comfortable to drive. The seats are pre-fitted and although they aren’t shock absorbing it is possible to re-fit with new seats if required. Having said that the seats are perfectly adequate for the purposes of a day boat and were reversible, so anglers can sit comfortably facing the stern while in fishing mode.

ENGINE

The rating is for a 200hp outboard and although the one we tested had a Mercury as standard it is possible through the distributors to fit Suzuki or Yamaha dependant on your preference. The Mercury fitted is a very good engine, very quiet as all four strokes are nowadays and provided plenty of power for the boat.

SPECIFICATION:

- Max. number of persons onboard: 8
 - Hull length (without platforms, nor engine nor anchor): 6.53m; length overall (including platforms, engine and anchor): 7.74m
 - Total beam 2.50m
 - Draught to baseline: 0.4m
 - Fuel tank capacity: 200 litres
 - Water tank capacity: 77 litres
 - Max. engine power: 1x200 CV
 - Max. speed: 40 knots
 - Cruising speed (70% power): 25 knots
 - Economical cruising speed: 15 knots
 - Range at economical speed: 125nm
- For more information contact www.rbsmarine.com or call 01243 512101

VIVA LA VENTURA!

Tim Macpherson is impressed as stylish design is combined with high performance in the new 690 Ventura CC from Spanish manufacturer Rodman

the console. There are plenty of options for storage of vital gear, either in the forward cabin space or in one of the many locker compartments around the boat.

The one minor issue is with the running boards which flank the engine. I would probably remove these because they add a metre of platform which would hamper the rods if I was at anchor with lines trailing from the stern.

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

This is really dependent on taste and requirements. The boat we tested had seat cushions over the locker space, all of which are easily removable with quick release clips and there are also fittings for a table in both the front and behind the seats on the stern deck. For me the less clutter on a fishing boat the better and these tables are really for leisure cruising (although it is compact and in the front doesn't restrict movement too much). It comes with six stainless steel cleats, stainless steel handrails and a GRP console, GRP side seats, a towing hook, a self-draining anchor well, bow roller and lockers inside fore and aft seats.

ANCHOR

The anchor comes with 40m of chain. Our model had a Danforth anchor with a battery and electric windlass, which is an optional extra. For future models a 10kg Bruce anchor will be fitted.

PERFORMANCE AND HANDLING

We took the boat out for a turn in the bay and I found it very easy to handle with a responsive helm (some boats I've tried can be a bit lazy) and easy handling. Pick up from the throttle was instant and a 200hp engine is more than adequate – powerful enough to really get you somewhere quickly (and get you out of trouble). We managed to get 40 knots on a flat sea with no wind, which was impressive and really comfortable with no slap or bounce, although there wasn't a lot of wave height to really test it. The shape of the hull is designed to make sure that even in a high sea, water won't be shipped on board. The boat handled well at speed and when banking didn't wallow on the turn, which was very tight – it felt smooth and completely in control. The 4-stroke engine was quiet even at full throttle and at low speeds didn't seem to be straining.

SUMMARY

The 690 retails at around £69,000. It's a great fishing platform and provides speed and good stability. There is plenty of storage room to keep the deck clear of gear when fishing. The deck is non slip and with the 1m+ gunnels the boat feels safe and secure. In all I really enjoyed the ride and was all for whizzing out to try a bit of fishing in the Solent. These boats are pricey but worth every penny in handling, comfort and sleek design. As a centre console angling boat it will be a great addition to the choices available for anglers. ■



CONSOLE

The console has plenty of space for two electronics units and a radio in addition to the standard engine monitoring gauge which had a multifunction option to check revs, battery, oil check and other vital functions. The console is well proportioned and doesn't take up a huge amount of space.

LOCKERS AND FORWARD CABIN SPACE

Underneath the prow, and accessed through a sliding hatch with a lock, there is plenty of space for gear storage, or as one of the demonstration boats they had at the recent Stuttgart boat show, it can be fitted out as a proper cabin. There is an option to set up a chemical lavatory in the heads. It really depends on what you are planning to use the boat for.

FISHING SPACE

The boat could comfortably fit four anglers – two at the front and two off the stern. Rod holders can, of course, be fitted in a variety of places – either along the gunnels or attached vertically to





FEATURES:

- Sizes: UK 6 to 13
- Price: Around £65.99 (but shop around)
- Website: www.vassrainwear.co.uk

FORMIDABLE FOOTWEAR!

Dave Barham reveals a very versatile pair of boots from Vass Rainwear, which will suit beach, rock and boat anglers alike.

Those of you who follow my exploits on social media will know that when I'm not out chasing cod during the winter months, I like to dabble on the river with a few deadbaits in search of pike.

In recent years I've always worn my black military-grade winter boots, but about a year ago they began leaking after a solid 12 years of service, so the time was right to invest in some new footwear.

I did contemplate buying the same boots again, but then I also thought about my other passion in life, hunting with air rifles, so I made the decision to look into a decent pair of wellies. A chance conversation with Chris at Vass Rainwear soon had a pair of their Winter 'E' Boots winging their way to me, and when I opened the box I knew I'd made the right choice.

A BOOT FOR ALL SEASONS

The big selling point for me is that these particular boots feature removable 3mm Vass-Tex Neoprene liners, and that means I can comfortably use them boots all-year-round, even in summer.

The removable liners are also a godsend for those with stinky pinkies, luckily something that I have never suffered from, but I know more than a few anglers with smelly feet, and having the option to remove the liners and bung them in the washing machine is going to please a lot of people.



THE RIGHT FIT

I've been wearing these boots all winter, and to begin with they were quite tight on my monster size 13 feet, but that's due to the liners, and to be honest you only want to wear really thin socks with them or your feet are going to overheat. I'm pleased to say that after three or four outings, everything began to relax a bit and now they fit my feet perfectly. It's worth noting that if you want to wear these boots during the warmer months, you're going to need to remove the Neoprene liners and don some chunky wool socks instead – to make the boots fit well and to prevent your feet from sweating too much.

FULL OF FEATURES

These aren't just any old boots, they're Vass boots, and as such they're packed with quality features. For a start they have an ultra-chunky, ladder-grip sole with a tread that any 4x4 offroad enthusiast would be proud of. Parts of the sole are over an inch deep, which is really going to appeal to rock anglers.

Then there's the deep heel kickers, which make taking the boots off much easier – especially when you have the Neoprene liners installed.

Inside the main body of the boots you'll notice that there is a reinforcing cloth weave added to give the boots more rigidity, yet allows them to still be flexible. The actual fit is wider around the foot and calf, too. So they're going to feel great no matter what shape your feet are.

I have to admit that the build quality of these boots is superb. There's no way the soles are ever going to come away from the main body of the boots, and strategic mouldings ensure that the boots flex in all the right places when walking, so there's very little chance of them cracking and leaking over time.

SUPER STUDS

These boots are available in three sole options. The first, which I opted for, are the plain soles. Then there are the standard studded sole boots, which will suit most rock anglers – they're definitely required on some of the marks that I have fished over the years. Last, but not least, are the new Mega-Studs. Not only do the soles have



more studs than the standard studded soles, but these Mega Studs are much longer and protrude further out of the soles – 4mm to be precise. These tungsten-core studs provide a spike-like grip, which is essential when clambering over weed-covered rocks and steep grassy banks. The base of the studs are machined deep into the soles of the boots and they are flanged at the top to prevent them from driving themselves further into the boots over time.

CONCLUSION

Although I have only been wearing these boots for a couple of months, they have been out and about with me at least twice a week, often more, in temperatures down to minus 6 degrees Celsius. Needless to say, my feet have remained toasty warm at all times, and although I haven't really tested them to the extremes they are designed for on the rugged northeast, Welsh, Cornish and Scottish coastlines, I'm in no doubt that they will perform as desired.

They provide superb grip on the steep grassy banks of the river where I fish, and they're also great on the deck of a boat too. Time will tell, but I reckon I'll get a good decade or more of consistent abuse out of these little gems! ■

GIMME SHELTER

It doesn't take long over the course of a fishing session for even a gentle breeze or a light drizzle to turn a comfortable fishing session into one where the dry and warmth of the car, or home, can become too much to ignore. Even if you don't get as far as chucking the towel in, being uncomfortable will mean you lose focus, become less motivated and fish much less effectively. It's on these occasions that a beach shelter can save your day (or night) by providing much needed protection from wind and rain, and even sun, helping to keep you warm, dry and your spirits up even in the worst conditions that mother nature can throw at you. Here is Sea Angler's selection of the best-selling sea angling shelters to suit all budgets.





EUROHIKE WAVE II

At the budget end of the range is the Wave II from Eurohike. Not specifically an angling product, this light weight shelter is designed to provide protection from the sun and wind and is ideal for fishing, picnics and other family beachside activities. Crucially, the tent offers UPF 50+ protection to keep you safe from skin damage during sunny weather and is a good choice for summer weather when shade from the sun is in short supply.

FEATURES

- Lightweight and compact
- UPF 50+ protection against UV rays
- Zip-away door that can be used as a porch floor extension
- Sand pockets to prevent the tent moving in windy conditions
- Includes pegs for use on grass
- Hydrostatic head: 400mm
- Carry bag included
- Weight: 1.2kg

RRP £50

www.eurohike.co.uk

TRONIXPRO BEACH BROLLEY SHELTER

The Tronixpro Beach Brolly Shelter is a 50in fishing brolly for use on the beach or shingle for storing gear away from the elements. It creates the ideal base camp for baiting up, tying rigs or even making a brew. Made from a strong steel frame the brolly features fabric, taped seams which prevent water ingress. The 80cm down pole with a metal point is perfect for securing the brolly into the ground. It can also be setup Nubrolli style, a mechanism that allows the pole to be setup at the back of the shelter, for increased space. The pocketed flaps around the sides can be filled with pebbles, sand or rocks to help give the brolly more security in high winds.

FEATURES

- 80cm down pole with metal point to secure the brolly into the ground
- Can also be setup Nebrolli style, allowing the pole to be placed at the back of the brolly
- Pocketed flaps for added security
- D rings allow it to be pegged
- Comes with a fabric sleeve and is easily stored in the Tronixpro Double Quiver Bag

RRP £64.99

www.tronixfishing.com

DAIWA SAND STORM

The Sand Storm shelter is dressed in the instantly recognisable yellow colour of the rest of the Sand Storm range and is designed for rapid set-up thanks to centrally located elastic connecting poles, Velcro and snaplock tensioners. The bottom skirt extends by 40cm to allow overlaying of sand and gravel to ensure stability and wind proofing.

FEATURES

- Open front is 2.5m wide
- Height: 1.4m
- 1.5m deep, the head clearance continues for 75cm
- Supplied with four ground spikes
- Comes in a holdall

RRP £125
daiwasports.co.uk



SHAKESPEARE SALT

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FEATURES

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FEATURES

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FEATURES

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MARINE CONSE

Tim Macpherson brings us up to date with the latest developments on the recently designated areas and how they could affect your angling

Over the last 12 years the government has been slowly designating a series of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to add to the network of protected areas around the UK coast. These were selected after taking advice from Natural England and considering submissions for a variety of stakeholders and conservation organisations (including angling groups and the Angling Trust). These zones are established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) and are areas designated with the aim to protect nationally important, rare or threatened habitats and species and some unique geological features.

The idea is the network of Marine Conservation Zones are nationally important places that safeguard rare and fragile marine seabed habitats (e.g. chalk reefs, estuaries or seagrass beds) and organisms like black bream or seahorses, from human damage. Wider

associated habitats are also included in MCZs as they're important too. The process has been dragging on for a number of years and the zones were designated in three tranches, with the latest designation coming in 2019.

This saw a total of 41 designations, most of them were non-controversial or offshore and away from areas the various stakeholders would be using (except maybe commercial fishing). However, there are a number of inshore zones which could prove to be controversial. After the areas were designated work has now begun on the all-important management measures – the regulations or bylaws put in place to enforce any restrictions that are required to protect the designated features. There are four sites which could directly affect anglers' activities: Beachy Head East, Southborough Rough, Purbeck Coast and Poole Rocks.

BEACHY HEAD EAST

In the case of Beachy Head East, a 195km² zone which stretches from the Head to the Sovereign Shoals and down to Hastings, a stakeholder consultation happened in February with the Sussex IFCA and the Marine Conservation Society teaming up to run a series of workshops in Hastings, Bexhill and Eastbourne with the objective of bringing together various interested parties (anglers and commercial fishing being two of the most important). The same process was successfully used to inform the management measures put in place for the Kingmere Rocks in 2015. Beachy Head East was primarily designated to protect Ross Worms and the Short-nosed seahorse. The likely outcome of this will be demersal towed gear will be banned from the entire area. This will not affect anglers but will have some impact of commercial fishing, although it has to be said over the last few years very little trawling has taken place.



RECREATION ZONES

OTHER MCZS

Of the other 40 sites a number have particularly issues for anglers. Examples of these are as follows:

SOUTHBOURNE ROUGH

Southbourne Rough MCZ is an inshore site that covers an area of 5km². The site is located in an area of patchy reefs to the east of Poole Rocks MCZ in Poole Bay, slightly further offshore and deeper than Poole Rocks MCZ.

PURBECK COAST

Purbeck Coast MCZ is an inshore site that covers an area of 282km². The site is in the central part of the English Channel and stretches from Ringstead Bay in the west to Studland Bay in the east along the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

POOLE ROCKS

Poole Rocks MCZ is a small inshore site covering an area of around 4km². It lies to the east of the entrance to Poole Harbour and approximately 2–2.5km to the east of the beachfront at Sandbanks. The site protects areas of rocky outcrops within the sediment-dominated Poole Bay.

WHAT MIGHT THE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR ANGLING BE?

Much of it depends on whether the objective for the site is to 'maintain' or 'recover' the site depending on whether it is in a favourable condition or not. If it is already in a favourable condition the objective is for it to remain as such. If the condition is not favourable, the law states it must be brought into, and remain, in a favourable condition.

The objective for bream populations occurring in the zones is to be free of disturbance of a kind likely significantly to affect the survival of its members or their ability to aggregate, nest, or lay, fertilise or guard eggs during breeding – which doesn't sound very promising for angling...

WHY MIGHT ANGLING BE A PROBLEM?

Black bream are a highly sporting fish and very enjoyable to catch. Anglers already practice a catch & release for many fish species including bream but what effect this has on the fish remains largely unknown. Anglers are conservation-minded and many release female bream in order to allow them to spawn. However, it's the males that guard the nests once the females have spawned. Do they return to the nests and guard the eggs? Are the eggs predated while they are absent? Divers also scare bream away from their nests potentially allowing predators to attack the nests in their absence. What impact does this have?

CHARTER FISHING

Any restrictions on black bream fishing could have a very significant impact on the local charter boat fleet in Dorset. It's worth noting here that according to independent research by the New Economics Foundation, the charter boat fleet based in Poole has a total economic impact of £5.7m, larger than both commercial fisheries and aquaculture in Poole! Restricting access to some of their best fishing grounds might have a huge impact of recreational angling in the area.

Natural England has been carrying out research on black bream and the news isn't encouraging for anglers. They seem to be concluding that caught male black bream do not return to their nest sites when released. This means anglers could be having a deleterious effect on the breeding sites which in turn could mean restrictions during the breeding season.

OTHER ZONES

There is also a small area called Selsey Bill and The Hounds which has also been designated along with Swanscombe, Studland Bay, South Portland, Solway Firth, Axe, Helford and Camel Estuaries and a zone east of Start Point – all regular angling areas.

So far, it's not clear if consultations have taken place or are planned for these zones but either way angling groups will have to ensure their voice is heard.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



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September & December 2022

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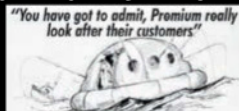
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SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

JANUARY

1: ASHBRIDGE MEMORIAL NYD OPEN, SEWERBY STEPS TO PAULL LIGHTHOUSE, 110 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Mike Coates, Hull, cod 3.625kg (11); 2nd Wayne Davidson, cod, 3.10kg (10); 3rd Wayne Davidson, Thornton, cod 2.825kg. Ladies' winner: S Moore, cod, 1.13kg. Junior winner: N Smith, cod 1.55kg.

1: HOLT SAC NEW YEAR OPEN, KELLING, 20 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Mark Gooch, Lowestoft, 43 fish, 481 points (2); 2nd Charlie Fairy, 42 fish, 453 points (not registered); 3rd Keith Morley, Lowestoft 40 fish, 405 points

7: COLWYN BAY VICTORIA SEA ANGLERS WINTER SERIES 1ST LEG, PENSARN, 36 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Terry Wallworth, Colwyn Bay, A zone, 7.00m (not registered); 2nd Gary Wood Holyhead, A zone, 6.16m (2); 3rd Carl Edwards, Bootle, C zone, 5.97m (2). Longest fish: 61cm thornback ray caught by Jim Morris, Cheshire. Zone winner: Bill Lindfield, Greasby, 5.72m, B Zone.

7-8: ASSO TWO-DAY OPEN, HYTHE, PRINCESS PARADE, 103 anglers

Strong southerly gales on both days and at times driving rain, really tested the mettle of the anglers. Reports leading up to the match were good, with several rays landed on the Friday by some of the Dutch anglers who had travelled over to fish the match. Despite the rough conditions, surprisingly small whiting made a nuisance of themselves, taking baits meant for dogfish and thornbacks. Fish bait certainly proved its worth, with many anglers not touching their worms. A convincing win for top overall angler, Lancing's Darren Bond, winning his zone both days, hot on his toes was another south coast angler; Phil Lee, with Alan Price from Wales completing the top three.

■ **Result:** 1st Darren Bond, Lancing (20); 2nd Phil Lee, Sussex (19); 3rd Alan Price, Rhyl (18); 4th Rob Tuck, Holland-on-Sea (17); 5th George Smith, Grimsby (16); 6th Craig Bradshaw, Ipswich (15); 7th Frank

Peene, Holland (not registered); 8th Paul Parsons, Eastbourne (13), 9th Tom Wells, Deal (12); 10th Shane Giles, Deal (11). Zone winners: Mark Wilson, Lowestoft (not registered); Becky Lee, Ashford (3); Joe Wales, Shoreham (3); Saul Page, Deal (3).

8: NORTH NORFOLK NATIONAL SEA LEAGUE ROUND 4, SALTHOUSE, 23 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Adrian Bordanu, Taverham, 54 fish, 894 points (2); 2nd Mike Watts, Fakenham, 58 fish, 834 points (1); 3rd Henry Randle, Bodmin, 55 fish, 779 points.

8: WALES AIR AMBULANCE OPEN AMROTH, 65 anglers

Difficult conditions made finding sizable fish hard to come by with only two fish qualifying for prizes in accordance with the match organisers' rules.

■ **Result:** 1st Leigh Rogers, Milford Haven, flounder, 895gm (not registered); 2nd Franco Attanasio, Saundersfoot, flounder, 345gm (5).

14: MIKE AND CHRIS'S WINTER HEAVIEST COD LEAGUE CARNOUSTIE TO FERRYDEN LIGHTHOUSE, 30 anglers

The match was fished in a strong south westerly wind with a bit of swell and coloured water. Not comfortable fishing at all but better stamp of fish overall weighed in.

■ **Result:** 1st Daniel Campbell, Arbroath, 7 fish, 14lb 10oz; 2nd Simon Pattinson, Rosyth, 4 fish, 11lb 8 oz; 3rd Alfie Brown, Peterhead, 5 fish, 11lb 6oz. Heaviest fish: Chris Horn, Kirkcaldy, 6lb 13 1/2oz. 32 anglers are registered, as it stands; 1st Chris Horn 6lb 13 1/2oz, 2nd Derrick Linton 6lb 11oz.

14: HOOKERS BAITS 2023 COD CHAMPIONSHIPS, BEACH ROAD, CLEVELEYS, 122 anglers

A west wind gusting to 40mph forced a venue change to Fleetwood instead of Cleveleys prom. Not a comfortable day on the beach for the anglers with some packing up early due to intense weed and being unable to cast. Perseverance was definitely the key to success with most of the fish coming into play in the last hour and a half. There were 11 cod caught in total, mainly from the sunken car park stretch of pags.

■ **Result:** 1st Kev Warner, Hormcastle, 51cm, cod (12); 2nd Jimmy Price, Abergele

(11) and Steve Rapka (not registered) 50cm cod; 4th Simon Dawber, Blackpool, 49 cm (9); 5th Mark Broadhurst, 48cm (not registered). Overall length zone winner: George Smith, Grimsby, 440cm, 16 fish (4). Junior prize went to Naomi Tipping for sticking out the full match and not giving in. Well done.

15: NORTH WEST ASSOCIATION OF SEA ANGLERS, LEAGUE FINAL, OTTERSPOOL, 30 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Joe Catterall, Upton, 767cm (not registered); 2nd Bill Lindfield, Greasby, 495cm (2); 3rd Simon Drayton, Gainsborough 724cm (2).

15: LEINSTER LEAGUE, KILCOOLE, IRELAND, 70 anglers

The first leg of the Leinster League was fished on Kilcoole Beach. Anglers fished a rising tide in a brisk north westerly wind. Fish were caught from the off along the stretch, with whiting, dabs, rockling, flounder, dogfish and coalies showing on the scorecards.

■ **Result:** 1st Alby Allan, South Shore SAC, 30 fish, 746 points (7); 2nd Mark Shortt, Bray SAC, 29 fish, 726 points (6); 3rd Karl Fogarty, Dublin, 22 fish, 542 points (5). Zone winner, Paul Tyndall, Ballybrack, 21 fish, 479 points (2). Longest fish: Al Santamaria (not registered), coalie, 35cm.

15: EAST ANGLIAN TEAMS OF FIVE AND OPEN, SIZEWELL, 71 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Cameron Turner, Felixstowe, 54 fish 502 points (7); 2nd Dale Pegg, 52 fish, 460 points (not registered); 3rd Bruce Lawrence, Ipswich, 54 fish, 417 points (5). Zone winners: Z3 Sam Creasey (2), Z4 Matt Frost (2), Z5 Kevin Eley Ipswich (2). Biggest fish was a dab of 32cm caught by Lawrence Chisnel (not registered). Team Results on the day: 1st Slap & Tackle, 46 points; 2nd Birds Tackle & Guns, 40 points; 2nd Breakaway, 40 points; 4th Italicanna, 39 points; 5th R&R Angling, 38 points; 6th Harty's odd bods, 30 points; 7th Tucky's Young Guns, 27 points; 8th Ipswich Sea Anglers, 26 points; 9th Ipswich Sea Anglers, B 22 points; 9th Birds Tackle, 22 points; 11th World of Fish, 17 points; 12th Sam's Baits, 17 points. Overall team results after Round 4: 1st Team Breakaway, 164 points; 2nd Birds Tackle, 144 points; 3rd R&R Angling, 143 points; 4th Ipswich Sea Anglers, 141 points; 4th Italicanna, 141 points; 6th Birds Tackle & Guns, 134 points; 7th Slap & Tackle, 133 points; 8th Ipswich Sea Anglers B, 123 points; 9th Harty's odd bods, 114 points; 10th Tucky's young Guns, 93 points; 11th world of fish, 82 points; 12th Sams Baits, 74 points



REMINDER Entries will only be accepted from the match organiser at least eight weeks in advance. Results must be emailed to ian.bowell@icloud.com within seven days of the event. Those not received by then risk being declared void for Penn points.

15: WYVERN OPEN, SLAPTON SANDS, 130 anglers

The South West's first major event in 2023 attracted anglers from far afield. Weather conditions on the day saw a strong to gale force, west-south westerly wind with occasional heavy blustery showers for the five-hour event. Whiting, dogfish, smoothhound, spotted ray and small eyed ray were caught during the event. 52 competitors returned to fish to the scales. All of the sponsors for the day were thanked for their continuing support, with main sponsor, Julian Shambrook of Anyfish Anywhere Ltd, presenting the prizes. The worthy winner of the event was Tom Travers of local angling club Honiton S.A.C. Tom recorded a whiting of 1.225lb and a spotted ray of 3.25lb giving him a total of 153.89 per cent. He was presented with the top prize of £200 cash and the Brixham Bowl. Other tackle prizes to the value of £800 were awarded down to 12th place. A special mention to junior angler Archie Sweetland from Honiton SAC who took 11th place overall.

■ **Result:** 1st Tom Travers, Honiton (not registered); 2nd Adam Slack, Brixham, ray 6.69lb and a whiting 0.855lb 131.31 per cent (not registered); 3rd Julian Shambrook, Torquay, dogfish, 1.785lb and a whiting 0.755lb 121.73 per cent (11); 4th Rob Marshal, Taunton, whiting, 0.670lb and a dogfish 1.845lb, 118.47 per cent (10); 5th Liam Teppett, West Bay S.A.C., whiting 0.805lb and a ray 5.75lb, 117.56 per cent (not registered).

21: NW TEAMS OF FIVE AND OPEN, ROUND 3, COLWYN BAY, 38 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Dave Cave Holyhead 434cm (3); 2nd Jim Morris Chester 330cm (2); 3rd Steven Bonner Wallasey 312cm (2). Zone winners: ZB Shane Russell 311cm; ZC Colin Dunn Conway 139cm ZD Ben Price Holyhead 224cm. Longest fish was a ray of 76cm landed by Terry Wallworth, Colwyn Bay (not registered).

21: YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS, WITHERNSEA 28 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st Lee Smith, Hull, 9 fish 624 points (2); 2nd Matt Hope, 6 fish, 342 points (not registered); 3rd Gary Hutson, Cleethorpes, 4 fish, 292 points.

21: SOUTHERN LEAGUE ROUND 1 OF 12 & OPEN, HAYLING ISLAND, 58 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Darren Bond, Lancing, 18lb 10oz (5); 2nd Phil Lee, Sussex, 16lb 12oz (4); 3rd Paul Stevens, Worthing, 16lb 11oz (3). Zone winner: ZB, Malcolm Stote, Lymington (2); ZC, Chris Woolven (not registered). Biggest fish of the night was a ray of 5lb 13oz landed by Chris Woolven.

21: MIKE AND CHRIS'S WINTER HEAVIEST COD LEAGUE CARNOUSTIE TO FERRYDEN LIGHTHOUSE, ROUND THREE, 33 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Robert White Jnr, 13lb 4 1/2oz (not registered); 2nd James Duncan, 13lb 2oz (not registered); 3rd Mike Horn, 9lb 14oz (2); heaviest fish and current league leader, Pete Ritchie with a cod weighing 8lb 13oz.

21: CHANNEL ANGLERS SAC PORLOCK AND BOSSINGTON, 44 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Leigh Davies, Porthcawl, 21lb 0.5oz including biggest fish, a conger eel of 9lb 10z (4); 2nd Dai Llewellyn, Barry, 10lb 4.25oz (3); 3rd Keith Warren, Clevedon, 9lb 14oz (2). zone winner: James Waygood, Watchet (1).

22: THE JAMIE RICHARDSON OPEN HEAVIEST COD MATCH, 131 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Freddie Barker, Scarborough, 4lb 7.2oz (not registered); 2nd Corky Agar, Scarborough, 3lb 10.7oz (not registered); 3rd Andy Clark, Redcar, 2lb 4.1oz (11); 4th Dave Bielby, Scarborough, 2lb 2.9oz (10); 5th equal Dom Christmas, Filey, and Lee Outhart, Scarborough, 2lb 1.5oz (not registered). Heaviest bag of cod: Freddie Barker, 8lb 4.6oz.

22: KENT FLOUNDER LEAGUE ROUND 1, TANKERTON, 37 anglers

■ **Result:** Dave Pinchbeck, Dartford, 130cm (3); 2nd Lewis Clark, Rochford, 118cm (2), 3rd Pete Josh, Gillingham, 115cm (not registered).

22: GEORGE WINTER MINI OPENS 26 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Kevin Midwinter, Swansea, flounder 530g (not registered); 2nd Kevin Astell, Swansea, whiting 320g (not registered); 3rd Tom Fisher, Swansea, whiting 270g.

ORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL S.A.C, 48TH OPEN BEACH FISHING FESTIVAL, WESTON SHORE, SOUTHAMPTON, 74 anglers

A tough match with only five anglers bringing fish to the scales.

■ **Result:** 1st Peter Oates, Eastleigh, flounder, 1lb 1 1/2oz - this was the biggest fish and allowed Peter his first win in this match which he's been helping run for the past 30 years (not registered); 2nd Gary O'Conner, Nursling, 1lb 1/2oz (not registered); 3rd Dave Eale, Shirley SAC, 14oz (not registered). Zone winner, Ian Beake, Havant, 13oz, white zone winner (not registered).

22: EAST REGION SHORE LEAGUE ABERTHAW & BOVERTON, 87 anglers.

The first leg of the East Region 2023 Shore League was fished this weekend at Abertthaw and Boverton where 14 teams fished the match with a total of 87 anglers taking part. Weather conditions were almost spot on other than a light south easterly wind. The Bristol Channel in general has been fishing well from the shore for a number of weeks. On the day, fishing was a bit scrappy with most anglers weighing in single rockling. 71 out of 87 anglers caught fish totalling 60.41kg. Made up of nine different species: dogfish, bull huss, three bearded rockling, pouting, conger eel, spotted ray, codling, bass and poor cod. Reigning Seamaster champion Dai Llewellyn fishing for the South Wales Match Men team was top rod with five fish consisting of two conger eels, two

rocking and a pouting for 4.23kg. A close second was Steve Ellis also fishing for the South Wales Match Men with three conger eels for 4.12kg. Steve also had the biggest fish of the day - a conger eel of 3.12kg. Third place was Tata Steel team member Jon Hopkins with two conger eels and two rocking for 3.86kg. Fourth place went to Steve Roberts fishing as a reserve for the South Wales Match Men with two conger eels and a rockling for 3.6kg. Fifth place went to Tyler Brimfield fishing for the Dave Richards Match Team with a spotted ray, two dogfish and a rockling for 3.24kg. Top five teams on the day: 1st Garry Evans Match Team, 419 fish points, accumulative weight 9.5 kg, 14 team points; 2nd South Wales Match Team, 409 fish points, accumulative weight 10.7kg, 13 team points; 3rd Dave Richards Match Team, 334 fish points, accumulative weight 8.3kg, 12 team points; 4th Sakuma Match team, 330 fish points, accumulative weight 4.7kg, 11 team points; 5th Cardiff Vale Fishing Team, 315.5 fish points, accumulative weight 3.72 kg, 10 team points.

■ **Result:** 1st Dai Llewellyn, Barry, two conger eels, two rockling and a pouting 4.23kg (8); 2nd Steve Ellis, St Mellon's, Cardiff, 4.12kg, three conger eels, including biggest fish an eel of 3.16kg (not registered); 3rd Jon Hopkins, Bridgend, two conger eels and two rocking 3.86kg (6).

22: GERRY'S SEA LEAGUE, GYNN WALL, 30 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Peter Wilkinson, Maryport, 31 fish 685cm (not registered); 2nd Tony Baxter, Clay Le Moore, 25 fish 556cm (2); 3rd Jay Cityzen, Blackpool, 24 fish 540cm (2). Zone 1: Gav Owen, 25 fish, 520cm; Zone 2, Steve Potts, 24 fish, 526cm; biggest round, 36cm whiting, Dave Hutchinson; biggest flat, 38cm flounder, Peter Wilkinson.

25-28: IRISH WINTER BEACH CHAMPIONSHIPS CO WEXFORD, 124 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Ben Arnold, Brighton, (20); 2nd Ged Stevens, Barrow in Furness, (19); 3rd Richard Yates, St Margret's Bay, (18); 4th Joe Wales, Shoreham, (17); 5th Sam Collier, Deal, (16); 6th Henry Randle, Bodham, (15); 7th Gareth Griffiths, Barrow in Furness, (14); 8th Chris Clark, Sway, (13); 9th Shane Russell, Old Colwyn, (12); 10th Joe Arch, Llanishen, (11). Zone winners: Adrian Bordanian, Taverham (4); Phil Lee, Sussex (4); Jack Keegan (not registered). Longest fish was a 38cm flounder landed by Sean Healy (not registered).

28: ANGLESEY MATCH ANGLERS HOLYHEAD BREAKWATER, 65 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Tony Owen 66 fish 1407cm (6); 2nd Dave Cave Holyhead 49 fish 1035cm (5); 3rd Jim Morris Chester 50 fish 940cm (4); 1st junior Josh Jones 398cm. Longest fish overall was a 67cm conger landed by James Williams (not registered).



MATCH FISHING

28: HORNSEA SAC OPEN, 40 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Tom Sutcliffe Hull flounder 0.325kg (not registered); 2nd Chris Martin, Newport and Kevin Richardson, Burton, 0.275kg (not registered).

28: LIGHT RENEWABLES TEAMS OF 5 AND OPEN, HASTINGS, 45 anglers

■ **Result:** Winner on the day was Luke Mooring, Dover, with 10 fish for 222 points, 4lb 6ozs. Pegged west of the Harbour Arm on peg 11 (B Section) Luke had 10 flatfish. The biggest was a founder of 36cm (4); 2nd Ralph Crosby, Hastings, 8 fish, 157 points

(3); 3rd Mick Snelling, Selsey, 9 fish 152 points (2). Biggest fish on the day was a flounder of 37cm landed by Ralph Crosby. A Section: 1st Kelly Jay Carter, Sussex, 6 fish 83 points (1); 2nd Thomas Wells, 5 fish, 83 points; 3rd Joe Croxon, 4 fish, 62 points. B Section: 1st Luke Mooring, 10 fish, 222 points; 2nd Paul Parsons, 2 fish, 38 points; 3rd Brett Green, 2 fish, 22 points. C Section: 1st Mark Rogers, Maidstone, 3 fish, 76 points (1); 2nd Billy Johnson, 2 fish, 54 points; 3rd Darren Brooks, 2 fish, 46 points. D Section: 1st Tom Ryder,

Worthing, 3 fish, 16 points (1); 2nd Nick May, 3 fish, 56 points; 3rd Ian Reynolds, 1 fish, 40 points; E Section: 1st Ralph Crosby, 8 fish, 157 points; 2nd Mick Snelling, 9 fish, 152 points; 3rd Andy Hurcombe, 5 fish, 87 points. Teams on the day: 1st Maidstone Angling Centre, 37 points; 2nd Century Match team, 35 points; 3rd Hastings Angling Centre, 32 points; 4th Asso Match Team, 30 points; 5th Channel Angling, Deal, 30 points; 6th Eddie & Hot Rods, 28 points; 7th Big Red Army, 27 points; 8th, Saul Page Tackle, 23 points.

LEADER BOARD AS OF 9TH FEBRUARY 2023

Philip A Lee	Sussex	27
Darren Bond	Lancing	25
George Smith	Grimsby	22
Alan Price	Rhyl	20
Ben Arnold	Brighton	20
Joe Wales	Shoreham	20
Ged Stevens	B in Furness	19
Richard Yates	St Mar Bay	18
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	17
Sam Collier	Deal	16
Craig Bradshaw	Ipswich	15
Henry Randell	Bodham	15
Gareth Griffiths	B in Furness	14
Chris Clark	Sway	13
Paul Parsons	Eastbourne	13
Kevin Warner	Horncastle	12
Saul Page	Deal	12
Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	12
Tom Wells	Deal	12
Andy Clark	Redcar	11
Dave Dai Llewelyn	Barry	11
Jimmy Price	Abergele	11
Joe Arch	Llanishen	11
Julian Shambrook	Torquay	11
Mike Coates	Hull	11
Shane Giles	Deal	11
Dave Bielby	Scarborough	10
Rob Marshall	Taunton	10
Wayne Davidson	Thornton	10
Alan Combe	Kirkcaldy	9
Simon Dawber	Blackpool	9
Dave Cave	Holyhead	8

Neil Cutler	Gateshead	8
Adrian Bordianu	Taverham	7
Alby Allan	South Shore SAC	7
Cameron Turner	Felixstowe	7
Aidan O'Halloran	Lisdoonvarna	6
Jim Morris	Chester	6
John Hopkins	Bridgend	6
Mark Shortt	Bray SAC	6
Nicky Robson	Wallsend	6
Simon Phelps	Milford Haven	6
Tony Owen	Wales	6
Anton James	Portsmouth	5
Bruce Lawrence	Ipswich	5
Franco Attanasio	Saundersfoot	5
Karl Fogarty	Dublin	5
Kevin Hughes	Port Talbot	5
Kevin Lewis	Dundee	5
Lee Smith	Hull	5
Kenny McCoy	Sunderland	4
Leigh Davies	Porthcawl	4
Lewis Clark	Rochford	4
Luke Mooring	Dover	4
Becky Lee	Hythe	3
Daniel Campbell	Arbroath	3
Dave Pinchbeck	Dartford	3
Dave Shorthouse	Kettering	3
Mark Cousens	Bearsted	3
Paul Stevens	Worthing	3
Ralph Crosby	Hastings	3
Alfie Brown	Peterhead	2
Allan Hughes	Holyhead	2
Andy Masden	Bristol	2

Bill Lindfield	Greasby	2
Carl Edwards	Bootle	2
Chris Horn	Kirkcaldy	2
Gary Wood	Holyhead	2
Ian Nelson	Grimsby	2
Jay Cityzen	Blackpool	2
Keith Warren	Clevedon	2
Kevin Eley	Ipswich	2
Malcolm Stote	Lymington	2
Mark Gooch	Lowestoft	2
Matt Frost	Woodbridge	2
Mick Snelling	Selsey	2
Mike Fox	Withernsea	2
Mike Horn	Kirkcaldy	2
Mike Kyle	Easthouses	2
Sam Creasey	Woodbridge	2
Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	2
Simon Pattinson	Rosyth	2
Tony Baxter	Clayton-le-Moors	2
Andy Young	Lancaster	1
James Waygood	Watchet	1
Keith Bathgate	Edinburgh	1
Kelly Jay Carter	Sussex	1
Mark Rogers	Maidstone	1
Mike Watts	Fakenham	1
Nathan Elliott	Dover	1
Steve Bonner	Wallasey	1
Steve Williams	Jarrow	1
Tom Ryder	Worthing	1
Tony Watters	Aberdeen	1

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes the points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three plus section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: ian.bowell@icloud.com



Winner of January 2023 monthly competition is Phil Lee from Sussex with 27 points

WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance match events planner ● = Penn Sea League

MARCH

- **3-5:** Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championships, for more details visit www.eobc.co.uk
- **4:** Channel Anglers SAC Porlock and Bossington Bait supplied three match series, fishing 2-6pm draw and bait 12pm. Max 45 anglers, 3 zones, 100 per cent pay-out, £30 league entry, £20 pools per match, £11 for bait supplied, pre-book and pre-pay only, peg draw and bait allocation to take place at Porlock Weir, catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight, James Madsen on 07900651071.
- **5:** BRAAS Open, 0830 to 1330, catch and release, Pagham beach, booking in from 0730 at Pagham yacht club 1 West Front Road Pagham PO21 4SY. Entry cost £8 senior £4 junior, optional pools flat £1 round £1, prizes subject to entry John Small 07799 762377 after 5pm.
- **10-11:** Sea Anglers Match Federation, Combined Forces Team of 15 Challenge, North Norfolk, HQ Castaways Holiday Park Bacton, bait pack included, fishing Bacton Friday evening 3-8pm and Saturday Kelling 10-3pm, evening presentation 7pm Saturday. SAMF v Fire Service, Police and our combined Armed Services. Ian Bowell 07789651191 ian.bowell@samf-uk.co.uk
- **11:** Southern League round 3 of 12 & open, Abbotsbury or Bexington 5-10pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com
- **11:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers winter series, Colwyn-Bay 6-10pm, Darren Jones 07595 375663.
- **11:** Light Renewables teams of five and open, Hastings 10-3pm, lug, fish, squid baits only, Mark Rogers 07770 973062, Colin Crosby 01424 430120, colinmichael123@gmail.com
- **12:** Kent Flounder League Round 3, Greenhithe 13.00 to 17.00pm, register from 11.30, DA99AY Carpark, pre book, measure and return, Ian 07791 234318.
- **12:** North Norfolk National Sea League Round 6, Bacton, Tony 07780 793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com
- **12:** East Anglian teams of five and open, Felixstowe, 9-2pm, length to weigh conversion, £25 entry, juniors must be accompanied by an adult, pre-book only with Rob Tuck 07855 848967.
- **12:** Gynn wall, fishing 11.30-3.30pm, book on at wall 10am, 2 hooks, £20 entry, pegged 15cm min size, pre book only Hutch 07547 633288 or Tony 07702 229015.
- **12:** Twitchy Tips Spring Open Eastbourne, £20 entry, limited to 50 pegs, lug fish and squid only, no shellfish, fishing 9:30-2:30 pm. Sign in from 7:30am at Fisherman's Club Royal Parade, Eastbourne, BN22 7AA. Contact Heather for booking 07870 401438 or twitchy tips angling club on Facebook.

- **12:** Anglers Corner West Wales Shore League Teams of 5 and Open, Oxwich Beach, 6-10pm, Chris Isaac 07831 308344.
- **18:** Yorkshire Federation of Sea Anglers, Withernsea meet 10am, Keith Mumby 07340 758013 or via Facebook page, Yorkshire Federation of Sea Anglers. keithmumby@btinternet.com
- **21:** NW Teams of five and open, NSL Qualifier Talacre 1-5pm, meet on the pub carpark, Ben Price 07393 201284 benplumb1992@gmail.com
- **25:** Samalite Chesil League round 2 of 11, Abbotsbury, 6-11pm, best eight results from 11, couple of rule changes which means the league will be catch, measure and release to the new SAMF chart for all species. Fish may be kept for the table or for bait but must be marked by snipping the tail after it has been recorded. No crab, including cart, whites or maddies. Pre-book only, Dave Lane 07977 132951 Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net
- **25:** Light Renewables teams of 5 and open, Hastings 10-3pm, lug, fish, squid baits only, Mark Rogers 07770 973062, Colin Crosby 01424 430120, colinmichael123@gmail.com
- **25:** Shoreham Open, Burrell's fishing 10.30-3.30pm, draw 8:30 to 9am, limited to 60 pegs pre pay, 3 hooks any bait to SAMF rules, contact Philip Lee 07807 442659.
- **25:** Cleethorpes open, 6.15-9.45 (high water 8.15pm 7mtr), Cleethorpes prom, leisure centre end, meet lifeboat station 4.30-5.15pm, pre book only 30 pegs, Mark Taylor 07500 112515.
- **26:** Gynn wall, fishing 12.30 till 4.30 book on at wall 11am 2 hooks, £20 entry, pegged 15cm min size, pre book only Hutch 07547 633288 or Tony 07702 229015.
- **26:** East Region Shore League Marcross & Monknash Steve Chadwick 07777 689289.

APRIL

- **2:** West Coast Angling Centre and Watchet Angling Club open, competition, 3.30-7.30pm, limits; Minehead Town beach to Blue Anchor Slipway, book in at Royal British Legion Watchet TA23 0AR, pre-book or more information from West Coast Angling Centre; 01984 634807.
- **2:** Hornsea SAC/Anyfish Anywhere open, Sewerby Steps to Paull lighthouse, biggest fish match, tickets at East Coast Tackle or on the day Lilys Beach Café HU18 1NJ, fishing 10-4pm, weigh in at Marine Hotel, £10 seniors, £5 juniors, Mark Colman 07768 342169 or John Aylward 07968 215565.
- **2:** Scottish Federation of sea anglers league 2023, Riverside Drive 10-3pm, pegged, lug and mackerel only, Chris Horn 07872 944807.
- **2:** Spring Loughor Estuary and Penclawdd Bank 2.30-6.30pm, book in Country Stores Gowerton, Brian Davies 07970 404522.
- **8:** Samalite Chesil League round 3 of 11, Bexington, 6-11pm, best eight results from 11, couple of rule changes which means the league will be catch, measure

- and release to the new SAMF chart for all species. Fish may be kept for the table or for bait but must be marked by snipping the tail after it has been recorded. No crab, including cart, whites or maddies. Pre-book only, Dave Lane 07977 132951 Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net
- **8:** Reg Willis Memorial open, Hastings 10-3pm, lug, fish, squid baits only, Mark Rogers 07770 973062, Colin Crosby 01424 430120, colinmichael123@gmail.com
- **8:** Seahouses Street SAC Easter Open, registration at Seahouses St working men's club 7am to 8.45am. Fishing times 9am to 1pm, £20 entry, 2 hook maximum. Heaviest flatfish £1,000, 3 heaviest bags £500, £300, £200, plus table prizes. Contact John 07702 075718 or Mike 07548 949140.
- **10** Easter Monday: Shoreham Open, Burrell's fishing 10.30-3.30pm, draw 8:30 to 9am, limited to 60 pegs pre pay, 3 hooks any bait to SAMF rules, contact Philip Lee 07807 442659.
- **15:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers winter series, Conwy River 5-9pm, Darren Jones 07595 375663.
- **15:** Southern League round 4 of 12 & open, Stokes Bay 5-10pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com
- **15:** Anglers Corner West Wales Shore League Teams of 5 and Open, Cefin Sedian, 11:30-3:30pm, Chris Isaac 07831 308344.
- **16:** East Anglian teams of five and open, Aldeburgh, 9-2pm, length to weigh conversion, £25 entry, juniors must be accompanied by an adult, pre-book only with Rob Tuck 07855 848967.
- **16:** ACSA Aberavon Open Aberavon Mark Cowell 07721 791210.
- **16:** Hornsea SAC RNLI Open, Sewerby Steps to Paull lighthouse, biggest fish match, tickets at East Coast Tackle or on the day Lilys Beach Café HU18 1NJ, fishing 10-4pm, weigh in at Marine Hotel, £10 seniors, £5 juniors, Mark Colman 07768 342169 or John Aylward 07968 215565.
- **22:** Bonkers bank open, 6pm-10pm, high water 8pm, meet at Anthony's Bank 4pm-5pm, pre book only, 30 pegs, Mark Taylor 07500 112515.
- **23:** Newport & District Open St Brides Tony Hart 07530 983667.
- **23:** Kent Flounder League Round 4, Allhallows 13.15 to 17.45pm, register from 11.30, ME3 9QD Sea Wall Slipway, pre book. measure and return, Ian 07791 234318.
- **23:** 48th Chesil Championships 11-5pm, sign on 9am at Bridport football club DT6 5LA, contact West Bay Angling Centre 01308 421800 or Richard Daw 07977 365068 West Bay SAC.

GOT AN EVENT? CONTACT IAN.BOWELL@ICLOUD.COM

TIDES

Tide times and heights to help plan your fishing sessions over the coming months.
Times listed for London Bridge*

MARCH

DATE	DAY	TIME	HEIGHT (M)	TIME	HEIGHT (M)	TIME	HEIGHT (M)	TIME	HEIGHT (M)
1	WED	01:49	1.6	08:18	5.8	14:18	1.8	20:49	5.4
2	THU	03:16	1.8	09:38	5.6	15:54	1.9	22:19	5.4
3	FRI	04:42	1.6	11:05	5.8	17:17	1.7	23:43	5.7
4	SAT	05:58	1.3	12:12	6.1	18:25	1.4	****	***
5	SUN	00:37	6.1	07:00	0.9	13:01	6.4	19:17	1.2
6	MON	01:20	6.4	07:47	0.7	13:41	6.6	20:01	1.1
7	TUE	01:58	6.6	08:28	0.6	14:15	6.7	20:41	1.1
8	WED	02:30	6.7	09:06	0.5	14:45	6.7	21:17	1
9	THU	03:00	6.8	09:40	0.5	15:13	6.8	21:51	0.9
10	FRI	03:29	6.9	10:13	0.5	15:43	6.8	22:24	0.9
11	SAT	03:58	6.9	10:40	0.5	16:14	6.7	22:52	1
12	SUN	04:29	6.8	11:01	0.7	16:47	6.6	23:16	1.1
13	MON	05:03	6.7	11:22	0.8	17:23	6.3	23:43	1.2
14	TUE	05:41	6.6	11:51	0.9	18:03	6.1	****	***
15	WED	00:17	1.3	06:29	6.3	12:29	1.2	18:56	5.8
16	THU	01:05	1.5	07:32	6	13:28	1.6	20:14	5.5
17	FRI	02:23	1.7	09:06	5.8	15:31	1.8	21:54	5.6
18	SAT	04:28	1.5	10:38	6.1	17:08	1.5	23:22	6
19	SUN	06:12	1	11:57	6.6	18:35	1.1	****	***
20	MON	00:29	6.5	07:26	0.4	12:56	7	19:40	0.8
21	TUE	01:21	6.9	08:20	0	13:45	7.2	20:32	0.6
22	WED	02:05	7.1	09:07	-0.1	14:29	7.3	21:17	0.5
23	THU	02:45	7.3	09:47	-0.1	15:09	7.3	21:58	0.4
24	FRI	03:23	7.5	10:23	0	15:48	7.2	22:34	0.5
25	SAT	04:00	7.4	10:50	0.3	16:24	7	23:04	0.6
26	SUN	04:37	7.3	11:09	0.6	16:59	6.7	23:28	0.8
27	MON	05:14	6.9	11:26	0.8	17:32	6.3	23:51	1
28	TUE	05:52	6.5	11:52	1.1	18:08	6	****	***
29	WED	00:21	1.3	06:36	6.1	12:26	1.5	18:51	5.6
30	THU	01:03	1.6	07:33	5.6	13:20	1.9	19:54	5.3
31	FRI	02:19	1.8	08:57	5.4	15:08	2.2	21:30	5.2

APRIL

DATE	DAY	TIME	HEIGHT (M)	TIME	HEIGHT (M)	TIME	HEIGHT (M)	TIME	HEIGHT (M)
1	SAT	4:04	1.7	10:25	5.5	16:43	1.9	22:59	5.5
2	SUN	5:17	1.3	11:36	5.9	17:49	1.6	****	***
3	MON	0:00	6	6:17	1	12:27	6.3	18:43	1.3
4	TUE	0:45	6.3	7:09	0.8	13:07	6.5	19:29	1.2
5	WED	1:23	6.6	7:53	0.7	13:41	6.6	20:11	1.1
6	THU	1:57	6.7	8:32	0.6	14:11	6.7	20:50	1
7	FRI	2:28	6.9	9:09	0.5	14:43	6.8	21:27	0.9
8	SAT	3:00	7	9:42	0.5	15:16	6.8	22:02	0.9
9	SUN	3:33	7	10:10	0.6	15:50	6.8	22:33	0.9
10	MON	4:07	7	10:34	0.7	16:25	6.6	23:00	1
11	TUE	4:44	6.8	11:01	0.8	17:02	6.3	23:29	1
12	WED	5:27	6.6	11:35	1	17:45	6	****	***
13	THU	0:06	1.1	6:19	6.3	12:20	1.3	18:43	5.7
14	FRI	0:58	1.3	7:29	6	13:29	1.7	20:05	5.5
15	SAT	2:29	1.5	9:01	6	15:22	1.8	21:40	5.7
16	SUN	4:18	1.2	10:25	6.2	16:51	1.4	23:02	6.1
17	MON	5:53	0.8	11:38	6.6	18:11	1.1	****	***
18	TUE	0:06	6.5	7:00	0.3	12:36	6.9	19:13	0.8
19	WED	0:56	6.9	7:51	0.1	13:23	7.1	20:04	0.6
20	THU	1:38	7.1	8:35	0.1	14:03	7.1	20:49	0.6
21	FRI	2:16	7.3	9:14	0.2	14:41	7.1	21:29	0.5
22	SAT	2:53	7.4	9:46	0.4	15:17	7.1	22:04	0.5
23	SUN	3:31	7.4	10:08	0.6	15:52	6.9	22:33	0.6
24	MON	4:08	7.2	10:24	0.8	16:25	6.6	22:55	0.8
25	TUE	4:46	6.8	10:49	1	16:57	6.3	23:20	1
26	WED	5:23	6.4	11:19	1.2	17:30	6	23:51	1.2
27	THU	6:03	6	11:53	1.5	18:09	5.7	****	***
28	FRI	0:29	1.4	6:53	5.6	12:39	1.9	19:04	5.4
29	SAT	1:32	1.7	8:07	5.4	14:00	2.2	20:34	5.2
30	SUN	3:14	1.7	9:33	5.5	15:45	2.1	22:03	5.4

*TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON BRIDGE

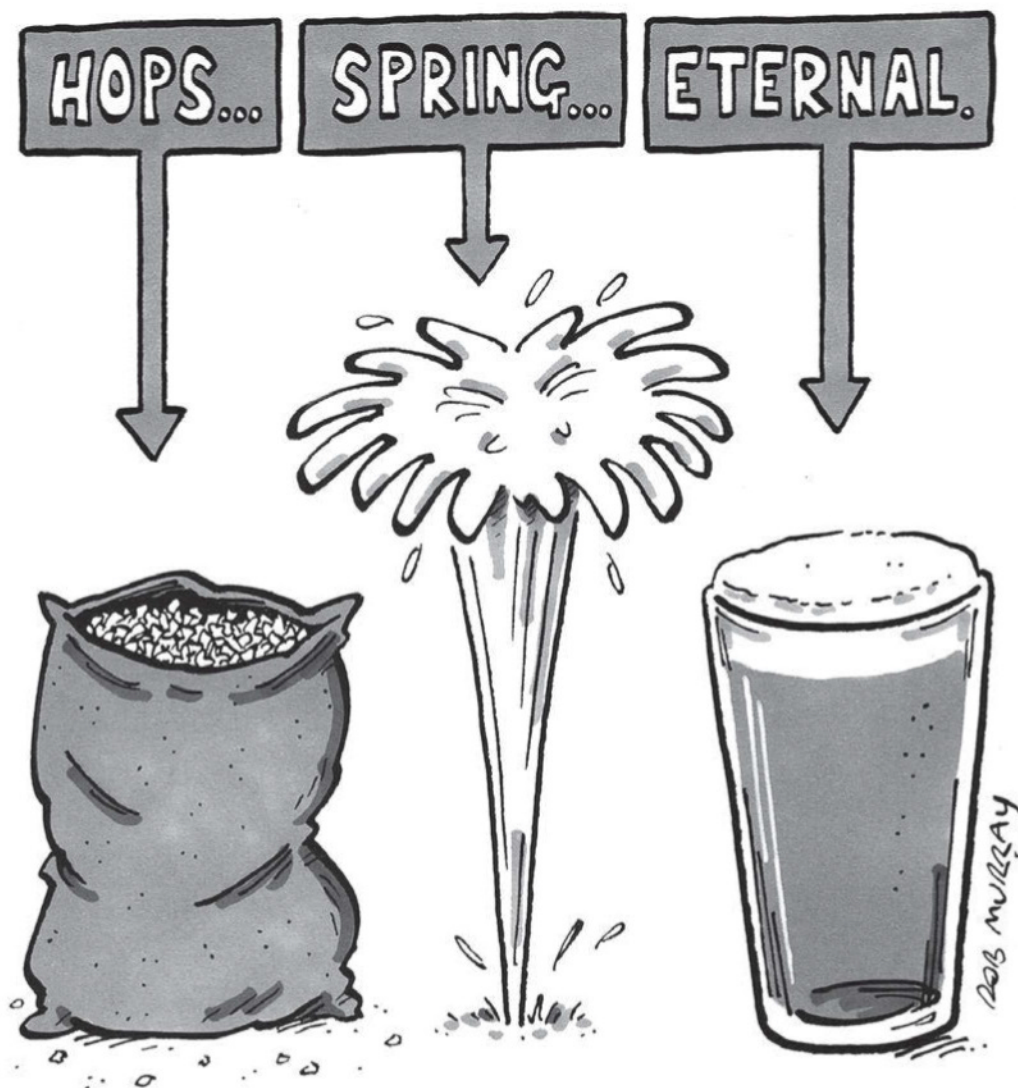
Wick	-2 29
Lossiemouth	-2 00
Aberdeen	-0 18
Stonehaven	-0 08
Cockenzie	+0 47
Berwick	+0 54
Blyth	+1 46
North Shields	+1 47
Hartlepool	+1 59
Whitby	+2 20
Scarborough	+2 30
Filey Bay	+2 45
Bridlington	+2 58
Skegness	+4 29
Hunstanton	+4 44
Cromer	+4 56
Lowestoft	-4 23
Aldeburgh	-2 53
Felixstowe pier	-2 23
Clacton	-2 00
Southend-on-Sea	-1 22
Herne Bay	-1 24
Margate	-1 52
Deal	-2 38
Dover	-2 53
Dungeness	-3 05
Eastbourne	-2 48
Newhaven	-2 47
Brighton	-2 51
Worthing	-2 36
Portsmouth	-2 29
Ryde	-2 29
Southampton *	-2 53
Poole (Entrance) *	-5 09
Bournemouth *	-5 09
Swanage *	-5 19
Portland	+4 57
Torquay	+4 40
Dartmouth	+4 25
Plymouth	+4 05
Fowey	+3 53
Falmouth	+3 30
Newquay	+3 32
Padstow	+3 45
Barnstaple	+4 30
Weston-super-Mare	+5 05
Cardiff (Penarth)	+5 15
Barry	+5 08
Swansea	+4 42
Milford Haven	+4 37
Fishguard	+5 44
Aberystwyth	-6 11
Barmouth	-5 45
Holyhead	-3 28
Menai Bridge	-3 08
Colwyn Bay	-2 47
Southport	-2 55
Blackpool	-2 50
Morecambe	-2 33
Barrow (Ramsden)	-2 28
Whitehaven	-2 30
Kirkcudbright Bay	-2 25
Girvan	-1 51
Ayr	-1 44
Lamlash	-1 45
Greenock	-1 19
Oban	+4 12
Gairloch	+5 16
Ullapool	+5 36
Belfast	-2 47
Douglas	-2 44

IRELAND

Dun Laoghaire	-2 09
Arklow	-4 41
Rosslare harbour	+4 39
Baginbun Head	+3 53
Ballycotton	+3 45
Courtmacsherry	+3 32
Baltimore	+3 35
Bantry	+3 15
Fenit pier	+3 13
Kilrush	+4 02
Galway	+3 36
Clifden Bay	+3 41
Westport Bay	+3 57
Sligo harbour	+4 25
Killybegs	+4 21
Rathmullan	+4 43

NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast	-2 47
Portrush	+5 48
Red Bay	-2 41
Carrickfergus	-2 42



When a Yorkshireman finds a source of pure spring water, he doesn't bottle it. He builds a brewery on it.

In 1863 Timothy Taylor was given the opportunity to buy land over a natural aquifer spring. He immediately did what any good Yorkshireman would, and set to work building a brewery. Ever since, The Knowle Spring has been the source of the unique Pennine spring water we



use to brew our beers. It has filtered slowly through layers of black rock and limestone and is said to have a taste like melted snow. Very pure and consistent water means we're able to brew beer with a finely balanced flavour and reliably high quality. After that first sip you might agree.

All for that taste of Taylor's

Spread the cost with **Klarna** to make 3 x 0% payments
Retail Finance Finance available from 1-5 years

10,000 sq ft shop with best display in the uk, "Anglers Serving Anglers"

BEACH SHELTERS

Ian Golds MK2 Igloo shelter takes 2, best around
£129.99 or even bigger MK2 Bigaloo £169.99

Daiwa Beach Shelter £119.99
25mt W x 1.4mt H x 1.5mt D

Dam/Imax Competition Shelter
£109.99 20x H110 Wx14cm D

GRUNDENS

Gerry's has been selling Grundens clothing for a while now and we've had nothing but praise for the product from customers. It's from the U.S.A and is used by choice on TV programme's Deadliest Catch and Tuna Wars those guys won't or cant afford to wear rubbish waterproofs!

Grundens Weather Watch Jacket £74.99
brilliant value, waterproof, breathable, 2 x zipped pockets, adjustable cuffs and hood softer to wear roll up store in a bag, contaminate resistant!

Grundens Weather Watch Bib & Brace £79.99
superb value 100% waterproof, breathable, zipped thigh pocket, sealed seams

Grundens Neptune Smock £89.99
(any col) yellow/black, orange/black easy movement very strong PU coated polyester fabric, that's 100% waterproof, sealed seams, corrosion resistant zips and hardware, neo cuffs, hood adjustment best commercial stye tough smock on the market!

Grundens Neptune Thermo Smock £99.99
(any col) yellow/black, orange/black as above but with warm thermo lining!

Grundens Neptune Bib and Brace £89.99
PU-Coated Polyester, 100% Waterproof, Stain Resistant, Interior Chest Pocket, Snap Cargo Pocket Adjustable straps with quick-release clip panels 1/4 leg zips with ankle fastening closures to prevent water entry.

Grundens Full Share Smock £129.99
(any col) grey/black, orange/black strong fabric, that's 100% waterproof and very breathable, inside membrane sealed seams, corrosion resistant zips and hardware, neo cuffs, hood adjustment

Grundens Full Share Jacket £129.99 (any col) grey/black, orange/black, black strong fabric, that's 100% waterproof and very breathable, inside membrane sealed seams, corrosion resistant zips and hardware, neo cuffs, hood adjustment 2 x zipped hand pockets

Grundens Full Share Bib and Brace £129.99
(match any b&b with any garment all brilliant!) Fabric 100% Nylon Taslon 320d w/ pu membrane, single storage chest pocket, Grundens adjustable suspenders. Waterproof/Windproof fully breathable, Lower leg zippers for easy on/off over boots. Reflective logos, Articulated knees, elasticated Side panels for all-round fit.

Grundens Tourney Jacket Ocean Blue £129.99
Lightweight, very tough, 100% waterproof and easy to wear and wipe down. Pockets adjustable cuffs reflective logo's. What more do you want in an all-purpose fishing jacket? **Most used by staff at Gerry's**

Grundens Tourney Bib & Brace £109.99
very tough easy wear, easy wipe down roll up, 100% waterproof chest and Cargo pocket

Grundens Transmit Jacket £199.99
(cols: Stormy Blue, Grey, Orange 100% Waterproof/windproof & 100% breathable Corrosion proof Full-zip front Zip left-chest pocket Hook-and-loop right-chest pocket, Adjustable hood, Neoprene inner cuffs. Built with a durable 2-Layer fabric, incorporates taffeta lining that allows for next the best breathability of any jacket on the market!

Grundens Transmit Bib & Brace £199.99
(match any b&b with any garment all brilliant!) 100% Waterproof/100% windproof 100% breathable, Adjustable Grundens Braces, Chest pocket, Internal bib handwarmer pocket, Single cargo pocket, Pliers pocket Articulated knees, Leg zips

Grundens Sunnan 2 piece Suit £109.99
Maybe the best value 100% waterproof easy roll up suit around? Jacket has Corduroy lined collar, ventilation flap, trouser adjustable waistband with leg boot adjustments

Century SEA

Century are now one of the leading producers of top of the range surf rods, with fantastic advances in rod build technology, and one of the best finishes on the market, and top notch rings. Just pick one to suit your fishing you can't go wrong. Gerry's also now are the only supplier that can custom finish your rods, you need to call us to discuss your wants and needs. Gerry's have been building rods in house for 40+ years!

The 3rd generation of **Tip Tornado Graphex** rods capture the best of the past and brings new and defined benefits commensurate with advances in manufacturing and material technology. Graphex technology is a bespoke combination of the resin matrix and Graphene to benefit the rods; durability, distance, tracking, sensitivity, dampening recovery to neutral and weight saving.



TIP TORNADO GRAPHEX

ELIMINATOR

FIREBLADE

EXCALIBUR

KOMPRESSOR

TT-R

Tip Tornado Graphex Sport 13' 11" / 125-225g
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch 13' 6" / 125-200g
Tip Tornado Graphex Match 13' 6" / 125-175g
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch LD 13' / 50-150g
Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST 13' / 50-125g
Eliminator T1200 14' 10" / 125-225g
Eliminator T1200 Salvador Bustos Edition 14' 4" / 125-225g
Eliminator T1000 14' 10" / 125-200g
Eliminator T900-SGT 14' 4" / 125-200g
Eliminator T800-SGT 13' 6" / 100-175g
Eliminator T700-SGT 15' / 100-170g
Excalibur TT 14' 10" / 100-225g
Excalibur J 13' 6" / 100-200g
Excalibur C 13' 10" / 100-200g
Kompressor WR 300 13' 3" / 125-225g
Kompressor S5 13' 10" / 125-200g
Kompressor S 13' 10" / 125-200g
TTR 14' / 125-225g
Tip Tornado Sport 13' 6" / 125-225g
Fireblade 13' 13' / 125-175g
NEW Fireblade 14' 14' / 125-200g

	RRP	Gerrys Price
Heavy - Mixed	£640.00	£559.99
Light Heavy - Smooth	£595.00	£519.99
Mixed - Smooth	£590.00	£514.99
Mixed - Smooth	£570.00	£498.99
Smooth	£540.00	£474.99
Heavy ground	£765.00	£669.99
Heavy ground	£765.00	£669.99
Heavy ground	£745.00	£649.99
Heavy - Mixed	£670.00	£584.99
Mixed - Smooth	£615.00	£534.99
Mixed - Smooth	£650.00	£564.99
Heavy ground	£745.00	£649.99
Mixed ground	£570.00	£498.99
Heavy - Mixed	£570.00	£498.99
Heavy ground	£595.00	£519.99
Heavy ground	£530.00	£464.99
Heavy - Mixed	£625.00	£459.99
Heavy ground	£685.00	£598.99
Heavy - Mixed	£540.00	£469.99
Mixed ground	£315.00	£274.99
Mixed ground	£370.00	£324.99

DAIWA 19 EMBLEM SURF 45 SCW QD

Possibly the longest casting reel on the market with its shallow spool, either braid or mono!

- 300yds of 50lb braid or 15lb mono!
- 4.9:1 ratio • 630g in weight
- Mag sealed • Air rotor • Digi Gear
- Quick Drag • Twist Buster II

Was £209.99 Now £159.99



DAIWA BASIA SURF REEL

'The best Longcast reel'

- Waterproof
- Only 500g (30% lighter than average fixe spool)
- 1 x deep spool, 1 shallow spool
- Showroom smooth with 7 C RBB bearing
- Slow Cross Wrap ensures optimum line lay and release

RRP £799.99 GP £669.99



DAIWA SEALINES

These are brilliant last a lifetime, easy to cast reels

- 20SHA 300x15lb
- 30SHA 300x20lb

RRP £149.99 Gerrys price £89.99 any size

